FOOTBALL 48

dinand back on the fast ack to France

r suspension

ves in hand, put stop subterfuge

BY MICHAEL CALVIN

needs to be out in the Next season that will be of the arrangement."

He acknowledged that publicaton of the accelerated the "because once the whole was in the public domain clearly needed to be looked at quickly". They formed a nificant part of Schumacher's defence "because it demonstrated the degree of and pressure on the That is a mitigating factor.

Mosley said: "You have remember that both he Villeneuve were under

Mosley: "Everyone everyone's conversation

mous pressure. They weight of their their teams on their ders. There was one between them and people shouting in their

"It was an extraordinary of circumstances. The were hyped up, dealing tremendous amount of alin, excitement and There is a great tendency something unwise in the of the moment.

"I do believe, quite ly, now that there arrangement of the kind we feared there might been. Far from Formula One, I think ally benefits it, because become clear that it run as it should be run.

"Everyone concerned Formula One is absolutely determined that no ever be fixed. It is in a major world everything is open. I the idea of things like transmissions on frequencies."

THE TIMES 35p

No. 66,046

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 13 1997

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"Come up and quote me sometime..."
Derwent May on who said what
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BEST FOR JOBS

WANTED	
Graduate	20K
Secretary	42K
Analyst	37K
Director	100K

32 PAGES IN TWO SECTIONS

Labour sought advice on second gift

Formula One chief offered new donation

BY ANDREW PIERCE AND PHILIP WEBSTER

BERNIE ECCLESTONE was proposing a second big donation to the Labour Party on top of the £1 million he gave in January, it emerged last night.

Neither Tony Blair nor other Labour leaders have made any public mention of a second gift during the turmoil of the past few days — although the party raised it with the standards watchdog Sir Patrick Neill last week.

In a letter to Sir Patrick last Friday, Labour's general secretary, Tom Sawyer, asked for guidance on the £1 million received from the Formula One supremo and then added that Mr Ecclestone had "since the election offered a further donation". Mr Sawyer wrote that Labour had "thus far" refused to accept it, "but we wish to be advised whether this is a position which we need to maintain".

Sir Patrick's reply spoke of the need for "transparency and openness", and urged Labour to return the first £1 million — which it is doing. "As to the second proposed donation, you tell me until now you have refused to accept it. You wish to be advised whether that is a position you need to maintain. My advice is that it is."

The contents of Sir Patrick's letter have not been published before, and the disclosure of the second possible donation is certain to fuel charges from the Tories of a "cover-up".

Members of the Public Standards Committee have privately voiced unhappiness that the full contents of the letters have not been published, but the decision is one for Labour since it wrote to Sir Patrick in confidence.

Ecclestone: second gift offered after election

Senior Labour sources have confirmed to *The Times* the references to the second donation in Mr Sawyer's four-page letter. That said: "This approach distinguishes between a pre-election donation which, of course, was not a factor in the Government's decision [to exclude Formula One], which was taken exclusively in the national interest as the Government judged, and the receipt of post-election donations where an appearance of conflict of interest might be thought to arise."

Labour sources were unable to say when Mr Ecclestone made the second offer. But it was clearly a deeply sensitive issue, given last week's decision to exempt Formula One from a proposed ban on tobacco advertising and Mr Blair's meeting with Mr Ecclestone at Downing Street on October 16.

Labour briefings since last week have talked of the possibility of "further donations", but have at no time suggested that Mr Ecclestone had already made a specific offer.

Mr Blair will now be under intense pressure to say when the second offer was made and why there has been no mention of it until now.

Even before the disclosure of the second donation, the Prime Minister was being accused in the Commons of presiding over a Government in chaos and turmoil. Of Mr Ecclestone's £1 million, he insisted: "There was never any favour sought or given."

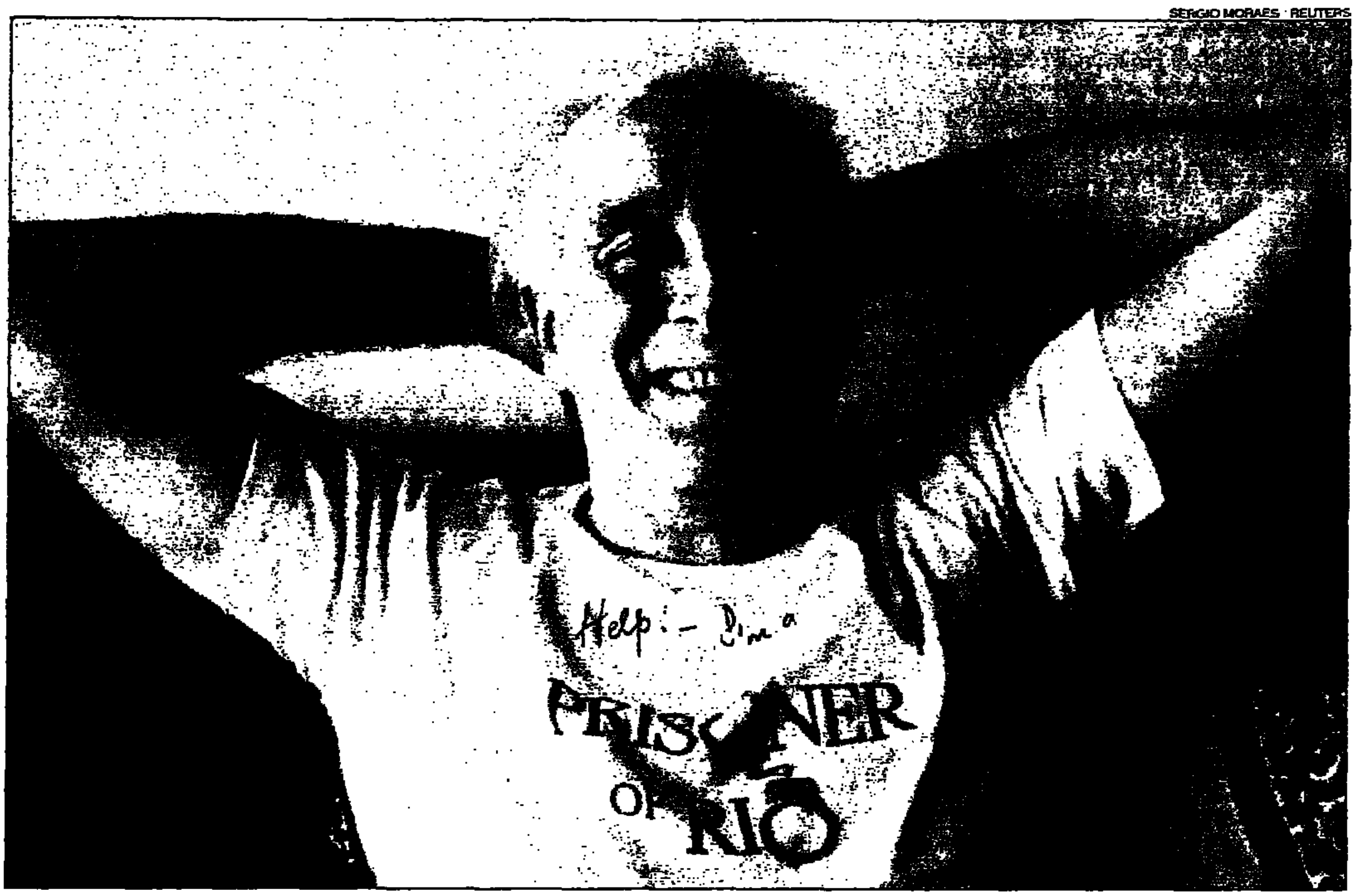
But he was stung by the MP *Martin Bell who warned him* that the perception of wrongdoing could be as damaging to public confidence as the wrongdoing itself. Comparing Tory pre-election "sleaze" charges with the Labour controversy, he asked: "Have we slain one dragon only to have another take its place with a red rose in its mouth?"

There was also fresh doubt over the tobacco policy last night after Mr Blair indicated his willingness to meet leaders of other sports keen to win the same concessions as those granted to motor racing.

He also confirmed that Sir Patrick's committee would investigate party funding and consider whether donations and spending should be limited. He said that political parties could be required to compete on equal terms.

Vernon Bogdanor, page 20
Letters, page 21

SERGIO MORAES · REUTERS



Ronnie Biggs, who sobbed with delight at the Brazilian court's decision and sent a message of thanks to the British people for their support

Court says Biggs is free to stay in Rio

BY STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

RONNIE BIGGS, the great train robber, will see out his days in the safety and warmth of Rio de Janeiro after Brazil yesterday turned down Britain's application to bring him back to finish his 30-year prison sentence.

The Brazilian Supreme Court ruled unanimously that Biggs cannot be sent home, despite a new extradition treaty which came into force this summer. The court decided *that Biggs could stay because* the treaty does not take precedence over Brazil's statute of limitations which discounts crimes committed more than 20 years ago.

Last night a Home Office spokesman said: "Clearly we are disappointed but the final decision was always with the Brazilian authorities and there is never any guarantee of success." The spokesman said the Home Office would not make a further attempt to extradite Biggs.

Last night Jane Wearing, Biggs's solicitor, said: "I am absolutely ecstatic for Ronnie. This is the most marvellous news for him. He rang me as soon as he knew and he was sobbing with delight and emotion. He is so grateful to the *British people for all their* support."

Malcolm Fewtrell, the 88-year-old former head of Buckinghamshire CID, who was involved in the arrest of Biggs, said: "I am not a bit surprised at this decision. Quite honestly, I cannot see the point of bringing him back, with the prisons so overcrowded. Brazil have had Biggs for 27 years. They can keep him as far as I am concerned."

The original British police wanted poster

Biggs, now 68, has been a fugitive since he escaped from Wandsworth prison in July 1965 after being jailed for his role in the £2.6 million cash robbery from a mail train in Buckinghamshire. At the time it was Britain's biggest robbery and Biggs served a mere 14 months.

Convicted in 1994, Biggs climbed over the prison wall using a rope ladder and then dropped on to the roof of a waiting van in July 1965. He *fled to Australia after a* £40,000 facelift and lived there with his family.

When he was tracked down in 1970 he fled to Brazil. However, attempts by the Flying Squad to bring him back to Britain failed when the Brazilians were told that his girlfriend was pregnant: under local law he was protected as the father until the child was an adult.

In 1981 he was kidnapped in Rio by a gang of adventurers *and smuggled to Barbados by* boat. Their aim was to bring him back to Britain. The Barbados High Court decided the rules governing extradition to Britain had not been properly put before the island's parliament and Biggs returned to Rio.

In 1978 Biggs made a record, *No One is Innocent*, with the punk band the Sex Pistols. He also raised money by selling T-shirts depicting himself and by exploiting his notoriety to entertain Japanese tourists.

Woodward's surprise exit

Louise Woodward made a surprise dash from her hotel in Boston yesterday and was taken by ferry across the Charles river to an unknown destination.

The British au pair, who was freed on Monday, had been under virtual siege by the media but has given no interviews.

Weary judge, page 8

Pension fears

Pension funds for millions of local authority workers are at risk because thousands of staff have had generous early retirement deals .... Page 8

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Thousands of prisoners to be tagged and released early

BY FRANCES GIBB AND RICHARD FORD

THE Home Secretary and the Lord Chief Justice yesterday read the last rites over the *Conservative "prison works"* policy that has seen the jail population rise to record levels.

Three thousand prisoners are to be freed early on electronic tags, and judges and magistrates are to be encouraged to make greater *use of tagging and community* punishment for non-violent offenders after Lord Bingham of Cornhill, the Lord Chief Justice, said that the trend to favour custody was a "real source of concern".

Jack Straw will announce his most controversial initiative next week when he gives details of his plans to tag thousands of prisoners and release them for the last three *months of their sentences.* And yesterday he paved the way when he told a probation conference in London: "Tagging may provide a pathway for offenders leaving the order of prison to the potential disorder outside.

"There is no argument that it has within it the scope for further significant development. It is now clear that sentencers do see electronic monitoring as a viable alternative to custody in many cases."

The *measure allowing for* the early release of prisoners who have been assessed by the Parole Board and deemed no threat to the public is expected to become law next year.

The move reflects concern in the prison service and at the Treasury about the size of the *prison population, which has* risen by 12 per cent in the past five years to 63,271.

Similar concerns were expressed by the Lord Chief Justice at the same probation conference.

In what was seen as a direct attack on the former Conservative Home Secretary Michael Howard and his repeated assertion that "prison works", Lord Bingham said that he had no doubt that the rise in prison numbers was caused by "the vocal expression of opinion by influential public figures that custody is an effective penalty".

The clear inference from that, he said, must be that where judges and magistrates faced a difficult choice between custody and community penalties, they chose custody. And if that were so, he regarded the trend as a real source of concern.

Lord Bingham emphasised *that he was not talking about* serious crimes where "no one doubts for an instant that sometimes very long sentences are called for", but the "middling class of case" where it was far from clear that custody was more effective than a community penalty. But he added that if prison were to be a last resort, communituy penalties *must* be demanding and well-designed. "I think that this is a problem of public perception which should be vigorously addressed."

Mr Straw, too, tacked the "image" problem, telling the conference that he was considering changing the names of *the various penalties to make* it clearer that the offender was being punished.

"Community service" gave the impression, he said, of voluntary service rather than of hours of physical work. "Combination orders" which link community service and a *probation order meant nothing* to most people and even "probation" was confusing. One possibility was to introduce the term "corrections". He also told probation officers to stop referring to offenders as "clients".

GREEN BELT (SOON TO BE TWINNED WITH NEW YORK)
MAH

Green light for housing in green belt

The Government has enraged environmental groups by announcing that it intends to go ahead with building 2.2 million new homes on farm land and in the green belt.

The groups wanted 60 to 75 *per of the 4.4 million new* homes scheduled for the next 20 years to be on abandoned urban land. But the Housing Minister said he would keep to the target of 50 per cent on previously developed land .... Page 4

Brothers missing in 3,000-mile rowing race

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH

A SEARCH was under way last night for two British brothers missing in treacherous seas in mid-Atlantic. The pair, competing in a homemade boat in the longest rowing race ever held, from Tenerife to Barbados, have lost contact with organisers.

Routine signals from Edward and Matthew Boreham, 31 and 28 respectively, from Sunbury, southwest London, ceased last Friday when they were about a third of the way through the 3,000-mile test. Rescuers have gone to the points from where the emergency beacon was signalling, but no trace of the 24ft boat has been found. Organisers of the Port St Charles Barbados Atlantic Rowing Race *hope that the men* released the beacon themselves, but it is possible that it was released automatically.

The organisers, Sir Chay Blyth's The Challenge Business, said that the escorting safety vessel had sailed to the point where the emergency beacon signals had come from, but there was no sign of the boat. The vessel was standing by last night.

All ships in the area have been asked to watch out and a search plane from Lisbon is expected in the area. Contact had been lost with half a dozen *boats during heavy conditions* on Friday, with waves up to 25ft high, but automatic signalling from the other five boats had resumed.

One of the boat's sponsors, Nauticalia, a local boating business, said that the weather had been foul. Lynn Lewis, managing director of the company, said: "They have been rowing in 25mph winds and tough conditions. It is quite likely that their emergency signalling beacon has been washed away and started sending *messages* as a result of being submerged. We hope *that they are rowing steadily* on, blissfully unaware that they are the focus of a search."

However he said also that *the brothers' experience* before the race had been limited to rowing on the non-tidal section of the Thames. At their last known position they still had two months of rowing ahead of them.

The Boreham brothers in their boat

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Saturday in THE TIMES

Golden Wedding memories

Elizabeth Longford on the wedding: ‘We inside the Abbey saw that Princess Elizabeth looked marvellously calm’

Philip Howard in the crowds: ‘We camped out all night on the Mall under air-raid precaution blankets’

Marguerite Patten on cooking: ‘Steps were taken to increase meat supplies. The first was to provide horsemeat. The second to sell whalemeat’

Stephen Anderton on gardening: ‘Plants were so scarce that the Chelsea Flower Show catalogue listed three pages of brass band concerts’

DON'T MISS SATURDAY'S GOLDEN WEDDING COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE

A time for giving, and for walking on eggs

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

As Tony Blair has explained, "the Giving Age" began on May 1. Yesterday Opposition MPs wondered why for Bernie Ecclestone, the Giving Age began rather earlier.

Mr Blair, for whom the Giving *Back* age begins, had to reply.

It was Mr Blair's most difficult Commons half-hour since he became Prime Minister. Watching him at the dispatch box one was put in mind of C. S. Forester's description of a First World War cruiser — "an eggshell armed with sledge-hammers, designed to give punishment, not to receive it".

The Rt Hon Eggshell entered the chamber looking distinctly fragile. But his nest was well-supported from behind. Government backbenchers were there in force, primed by their whips with helpful questions (in some cases written out) designed to get prime ministers off hooks.

The first questioner, Peter Luff (C, Mid Worcestershire) went for the kill. Which minister took the decision to exempt Formula 1 from a tobacco advertising ban?

The eggshell looked and sounded a little shaky, but sprang up. He would set out the position, he said, "with enthusiasm and with relish". This was a fib, but who ever got to be Prime Minister by replying: "I'm on dodgy ground, here"?

Blair did set out the position — with grit if not with relish — and sat down shaken but in one piece. Lawrie Quin (Lab, Scarborough & Whitby) then rushed in with what was intended as emergency cushioning for the beleaguered egg.

This took the form of an invitation to attack the Tories on foreign funding.

Unfortunately, Mr Quin seemed to be reading his question and, worse still, to lose his place half way through. Only a volley of Tory jeers allowed him to regain it.

Now William Hague rose. He too was vulnerable — for the Giving Age, with Mr Ecclestone, has showered its largesse on Tory and Labour alike. In some ways, this was a battle between two eggs.

Hague asked about billiards and snooker. Designed to embarrass the Labour egg while guarding the Tory nest from reprisals, Hague's insinuation was that, like motor racing, international billiards and snooker deserved exemption from the advertising ban. We were invited to wonder why these sports had been treated less favourably.

The prime-ministerial eggshell went into rather wobbly orbit, taking us on an impromptu tour of motor racing in Australia, Canada, Portugal, Germany, Italy, France ... anywhere but the Labour Party's accounts.

Hague came back on angling and cricket. Anything but the Tory Party's accounts. "I'm not accusing the Labour Party of being paid to break their promises," he added. "They break them for free."

Those who doubt Hague's skills should consider how canny that was. He stayed his hand from the obvious shell-smasher because he had anticipated the comeback.

Tony Blair was left with a fistful of prepared ripostes concerning the Conservative record which, because Hague's line of inquiry did not invite them, sounded blustering and defensive.

For almost the first time in this Parliament, Blair's tactic of sidestepping questions and hitting the Tory record instead, began to sound a bit desperate.

At the end, Blair crowed that Hague had missed a penalty kick. A penalty, however, comes after a *foul*. And who had left the open goal?

Blair's implied message was: "You Tories are just as bad". But every MP knows that.

Subliminally, it invited the thought: "You Labour are no better". This palpably dismayed the government backbenches.

Dissidents claim IRA unit has split over peace process

By Martin Fletcher
CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

CRISPIN RODWELL

A wreath laid by IRA members from South Armagh at a republican monument in Co Louth on Sunday

FRESH evidence of infighting within the IRA emerged yesterday when dissidents claimed the bulk of an IRA "battalion" had resigned and joined those challenging the peace strategy of Gerry Adams and his fellow leaders.

Sinn Fein insisted claims of a significant rift in its military wing were "nonsense" and accused the perpetrators of trying to start a "fire that will destroy the peace process". The denial was issued by Gerry Kelly, a convicted IRA terrorist, to give it extra credibility.

Security sources had no evidence to corroborate the dissidents' claims. They said there was anger among IRA hardliners at Sinn Fein's participation in the Stormont peace talks, but believed the dissidents were greatly exaggerating it "to try and get a bandwagon rolling".

A spokesman for the rebels telephoned the *Irish Times* to claim 35 members of the 1st "battalion" of the South Armagh brigade had rejected a last-ditch plea by the IRA leadership and quit in support of the quartermaster-general recently deposed for opposing Sinn Fein's participation in the peace talks.

If true, this would be a devastating blow for the republican leadership. South Armagh is the heartland of the IRA and the local unit is one of its deadliest.

One security official confessed that "no-one really knows what's going on down there". Another said of the claims: "What's quite clear is that there's rather a large level of dissatisfaction with where the leadership is going. What's not clear is whether that's leading to a total split."

South Armagh, bounded on two sides by the Irish Republic, has long been an IRA stronghold where British troops have to be ferried about in helicopters. It was where the Canary Wharf bomb was planned and where Stephen Restorick, the last British soldier killed in Northern Ireland, was shot in the back at a checkpoint. The IRA's chief of staff lives there.

One security source called South Armagh's IRA men "the clever guys", shrewd veterans far removed from the "cowboys" of Belfast. Another said they had never fully backed the last ceasefire.

The quartermaster was one of at least six senior officials who stood down after a stormy IRA summit last month, and last week a dozen long-serving Sinn Fein activists in County Louth resigned. Security officials say there is no sign yet of the ceasefire breaking down, and see no evidence that the rebels intend to form a new group or join a rival anti-ceasefire organisation like the Continuity IRA.

IN BRIEF

EU meat exports threat

The European Commission yesterday dismissed British assurances over meat controls and stepped up legal proceedings against the Government for failing to ensure there were no illegal beef exports. The move amounted to the Government being told to intensify veterinary inspections at meat plants.

Jack Cunningham, *Minister of Agriculture*, admitted that a shortage of vets was hampering Britain's ability to comply fully with EU regulations.

Arms sale plea

The Government will announce today that Britain is to launch a *new* Europe-wide code of conduct on arms sales in an attempt to prevent its policy on "ethical" weapons exports being undercut by rivals. The code is aimed mainly at France. Germany Italy and Sweden.

Germ warfare

Germ warfare tests carried out in southwest England in the 1960s and 1970s were harmless, John Reid, the Armed *Forces Minister, told the* Commons yesterday. Dr Reid said he had been advised that the tests at Porton Down had involved "dummy bacteria".

BBC 'advert'

The BBC is to be reported to the Culture Secretary by the Commercial Radio Companies Association, which says that a new ten-minute promotional film for Radio 1 is clearly an advert. Two months ago, *another film using the* song *Perfect Day* caused controversy.

Twins die

Both Siamese twins died when an attempt was made this week to separate them in a 14-hour operation at Great Ormond Steet Hospital. The girls, who shared a liver and were joined at the intestines and pelvis, had been born to unnamed English parents.

Health move

The Prince of Wales is to meet Tessa Jowell, *the* Public Health Minister, to discuss his recommendation that complementary therapies such as acupuncture and osteopathy should be more freely available *on the NHS*. He said last month: "I am not alone in this belief."

Top cartoonists

Peter Brookes, cartoonist of *The Times*, was runner-up to Steve Bell, of *The Guardian* in the political cartoonist of the year category of the Cartoon Art Trust Awards last night. *The Times*'s Jonathan Pugh was runner-up in the pocket cartoon category to Nick Newman of *The Sunday Times*.

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Blair failed to declare free Silverstone tickets

By Andrew Pierce
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Blair: reprimanded in past for omissions

TONY BLAIR has failed to declare that he received free tickets to last year's British Grand Prix from a leading figure in Formula One racing.

The Prime Minister and his wife, Cherie, were guests at Silverstone of Max Mosley, the president of the Fédération Internationale de Automobile (FIA), who is at the centre of the controversy over the tobacco advertising ban.

Senior party sources last night denied that there was any obligation on Mr Blair to register the interests because he had gone in his capacity as Leader of the Opposition.

MPs are obliged to register gifts, benefits and hospitality that they or their wives have received from a British source "which in any way relates to membership of the House". Gifts are exempt from registration if less than £125 in value. Other benefits, such as free tickets, are exempt if less than £215 in value. Mr Mosley, along with Bernie Ecclestone, lobbied the Prime Minister at Downing Street last month to exclude Formula One from the tobacco sponsorship ban. It was at the grand prix circuit that Mr Blair met Mr Ecclestone, who paid £1 million into Labour Party coffers in January. Mr Mosley is in Labour's 1,000 club, whose members give £1,000 a year to the party.

The decision by Mr Blair not to declare the hospitality in the Register of MPs' interests is in contrast to Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, who loaned the Prime Minister his Tuscan villa during the summer holiday.

Mr Robinson accepted an invitation to attend the grand prix, from Philip Morris, the cigarette manufacturers, along with members of his family. He was unable to make it but his family went instead.

Mr Robinson took no chances in the register and wrote: "Members of my family attended the 1996 Grand Prix at Silverstone as guests of Philip Morris."

The Tories will seize on the latest omission to try to further embarrass the Prime Minister. Mr Blair has been reprimanded in the past for omissions from the register.

Speedy change in law on political funding likely

By Valerie Elliott, Whitehall Editor

NEW rules on party political funding are likely to be in place before the next election.

The speedy introduction of new laws to cover party political funding was made clear yesterday when Tony Blair asked for a report by July from Sir Patrick Neill, QC, the new public standards watchdog. A change in the law could be introduced in the next Queen's Speech.

Sir Patrick is to start work immediately on a discussion paper which will be published before Christmas. He formally received his terms of reference from the Prime Minister yesterday to "review issues in relation to the funding of political parties and to make recommendations as to any changes in the present arrangements".

The wide-ranging brief will allow him to look at the possibility of increasing state funding, introducing limits on donations from individuals and companies, the need for parties to publish their accounts, the funding arrangements for Opposition parties, new speeding limits on elections, and the need for gifts from individuals to be published.

In an interview with *The Times* Sir Patrick insisted he had "an open mind" on the whole area but ventured: "I still have quite an inclination to think that it is rather good that political parties raise their own money. It serves as a democratic control allowing them to be in touch with their own supporters."

If parties receive public funding, he said there might well develop "a gap between the leadership and the party's rank and file. I think it is very healthy for a party to have their foot soldiers to deliver leaflets." He believes, however, that it was anomalous that a Parliamentary candidate was subject to strict limits on election spending, and yet national parties had a free rein on spending.

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Rocker turned holy roller is top preacher

A vicar who entered the Church after trying sex, music and Buddhism is *Times* Preacher of the Year. **Ruth Gledhill** listened

A CLERGYMAN who admits that he tried sex, drugs and Buddhism before opting for the Church of England yesterday won the Preacher of the Year Award.

The Rev Paul Walker, 34, was the last of five preachers to deliver a sermon in the 90-minute final at Durham Cathedral. Mr Walker, who is priest-in-charge of a newly-founded congregation that meets in a school at Moorside, Sunderland, described an encounter with a tramp at Victoria station.

After trying to avoid the tramp, he ended up handing over his own can of beer and the cigarette he was smoking, and was then taken aback to find himself engaged in a philosophical debate about prayer and God.

The five sermons were all considered exceptionally strong by the panel of eight judges, chaired by the broadcaster Joan Bakewell. At the end of the service, Mr Walker came out the winner by an almost unanimous vote.

All the preachers had been asked to speak about holiness. Ms Bakewell said: "Paul addressed the subject very clearly. His sermon was original, appealing and new. There was a general sense of warmth throughout the congregation when he had finished, and a sense that people had been a little more energised in their Christian life. He spoke very much from the heart and I think we all felt very moved. We were made to smile and made to think."

Mr Walker, who is married to a book editor and has two daughters, said: "This has just not sunk in. I feel like a Spice Girl now." He said that he had a "horrible feeling" at 13 that he would one day be a clergyman but did not respond immediately.

"Through my teenage years, I was looking for something. I tried everything — sex, drugs, rock'n'roll — I even tried Buddhism. But I found myself one day reading the Bible, something I had never done before. I found the figure of Jesus remarkably appealing."

Mr Walker, a regular contributor to Radio 2's *Pause For Thought*, described in his sermon he how he was delayed at Victoria "due to trains on the line or something". "I nipped across to an off-licence and bought myself a can of beer, came back and lit a cigarette. You can see what an example of holiness I was!"

He went on to say that "Holy is an adjective that describes the very nature of God ... The more present God is, the more holy the place of his presence." There were, for many people, places, pictures and pieces of music that were more than the sum of their parts. "They seem to point us beyond ourselves to something more. We search to understand this."

But God also made demands: "Holiness would be a pretty trite thing if it were nothing more than a vaguely warm feeling — I mean, if you want to feel warm, go and have a sauna." Holiness was to some a pearl of great price that made them give up their search for wealth and human or sexual love and to seek God in a life of contemplation.

The Preacher of the Year Award, organised by the College of Preachers, is sponsored by *The Times*. The other finalists were the Rev Sally Chapman, team vicar of Short Heath, West Midlands: the Rev Neville Manning, Rector of Denton, Sussex; Gill Green, a Church of England reader of Ousden, Suffolk; and the Rev Michael Parker, Rector of St John and St Leonard, Bedford.

☐ The 30 shortlisted sermons are published in *The Times Best Sermons for 1998*, which like *The Times Book of Prayers*, a collection written by *Times* readers, is published this month by Cassell at £9.99. Each available at a £2 discount by calling 0990 134459.

MICHAEL POWELL

The Rev Paul Walker at Durham Cathedral yesterday. The judges said: "He spoke from the heart and we were made to smile and think"

The wily fox that went for early bath

By Michael Hornsby

A FOX that ran into a family's house used all its cunning yesterday when it was trapped in bathroom.

"It kept grabbing the window latch with its mouth and holding on to the door handle with its teeth, trying to get out," Philip Murray, who called the police to remove the intruder, said. "It also ripped tiles off the wall and tore down curtains."

The fox ran into the house at Swindon, Wiltshire, after Mr Murray encountered it in his garden. When it went into the bathroom, he locked it in. "It was quite frightening", he said. "I was worried it might attack my children when they came home, but the police were superb and caught it with a hook."

Two police dog-handlers responded to his emergency call, and the RSPCA arranged for a vet to call. Mr Murray, a supervisor with a cleaning company, said: "He injected the fox with a sedative and took it away. It was riddled with parasites and had lost its fur."

Britain's urban foxes — estimated at 34,000 out of a national population of 240,000 — date from the the spread of suburbia in the 1920s and 1930s.

Palace 'thief' claims he has photographs of stolen jewellery

By Richard Owen and Stewart Tendler

THE Italian burglar who says he stole jewels and papers from the Prince of Wales has provided photographs of the missing gems, his lawyer said yesterday.

Alessandro Garassini, representing Renato Rinino, 35, who is in jail for burglaries in the Savona area of the Italian Riviera, said his client wanted personally to return the jewels and letters from Camilla Parker Bowles to the Prince, because he wants to meet him. He said Rinino also wanted an assurance from both the British and Italian authorities that he would not be punished for the break-in at St James's Palace in February 1994.

But yesterday sources close to the Yard questioned details said to have been given by Rinino about the break-in and what he stole. Police in Savona said he was "well known for his tendency to claim improbable criminal feats". Signor Garassini, speaking at a press conference at the resort of Loano, said Rinino told him about the burglary in 1995. He said he was sceptical and advised him in any case to wait until three years had passed before saying anything.

The lawyer, who is also a senior local politician, said he became convinced the claim was true and wrote to the British Embassy in June providing a list of the stolen goods. He also enclosed photographs provided by Rinino of some of the items.

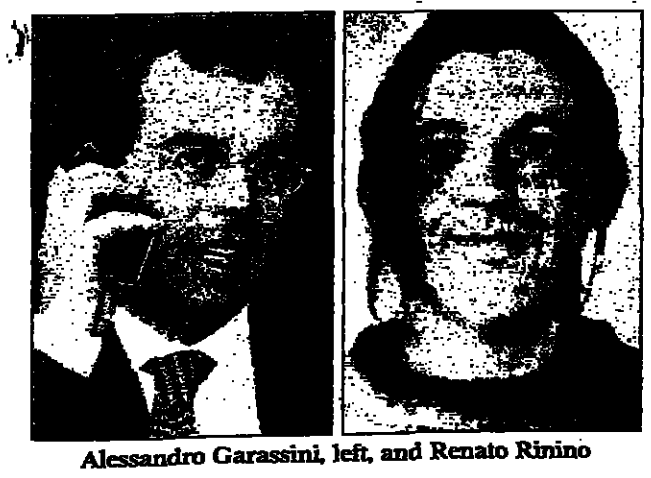
Signor Garassini said the stolen jewels included five tiepins, a stainless steel and gold wristwatch, five pairs of cufflinks, including a Fabergé set owned by Tsar Nicholas II, six gold buttons, two Cartier silver boxes, and a gold pocket watch and chain. He said the British authorities had shown intense interest. According to Italian press reports, Signor Garassini also sent the embassy photographs of the letters from Mrs Parker Bowles. Yesterday he declined to comment on this. "I don't know about the letters, and I don't want to know", he said.

Friends to whom Rinino boasted of the royal theft this summer have told *Il Secolo XIX* newspaper that he told them if the prince granted him "a royal pardon" he would give both the jewels and letters back. The newspaper quoted Rinino as saying: "I could make a fortune out of my account of the meeting, and then open a pizzeria. I want to give up crime and lead a honest life."

According to *Il Secolo*, Rinino said he was walking past St James' Palace one evening when he noticed unusual activity near what struck him as "a splendid house". It emerged that a hang glider had landed in St James's Park.

Taking advantage of the confusion, Rinino entered the palace grounds through the main gate and went round to the back, which was covered in scaffolding. He climbed to the first floor, got in through a window, and rifled a box of jewellery, stuffing items into a child's rucksack. He also allegedly took four shirts and letters from a desk.

In fact, the burglary happened on February 24, 1994, and the hang glider landed in the gardens of Buckingham Palace on February 5.



Alessandro Garassini, left, and Renato Rinino

Some Oxford students 'spend £800 on drugs'

By David Charter, Education Correspondent

SOME Oxford University students spend £800 a week on drugs, an undergraduate jailed for supplying cocaine, Ecstasy and cannabis said yesterday.

Daniel Legg, sentenced to three years' imprisonment in May for drug-pushing, said that sales of between £15 and £800 contributed to his weekly takings of £3,000 from fellow students. Police described Legg, 20, as "one of the main supply routes for drugs to students" at his trial at Oxford Crown Court.

In an interview in *Oxford Student* newspaper published yesterday, Legg described two drugs "scenes" at the university: the "surprisingly small" general circle and the "cocaine clique". "There is no archetypal 'druggie', they come in all shapes and sizes," said Legg, a former philosophy and theology student at Exeter College, who has been expelled from the unversity.

"Some are rich, some are poor. Some work hard; others don't. The circle is surprisingly small and most bump into each other once in a while. They take drugs for fun and could rarely be said to have a problem. The cocaine clique are separate, usually richer, and mix in different circles."

He added: "In the second year, I got through £40,000 and about £8,000 of that was profit. It built up gradually. I would never have dared to do what I was doing by the end. I was making a weekly eight-hour round trip to London with over £1,000 of cash to spend. The cocaine and most of the Es were delivered to my door." Legg, a former pupil of King's College in Taunton, Somerset, was arrested in March in the room in St John's College of Benedict Gilman, a mathematics student.

Police found cocaine, Ecstasy, and cannabis worth £2,400 in the room. Gilman, a QC's son from Chislehurst, south-east London, received 200 hours' community service after admitting possession.

Legg said he was learning things in prison that he would never have learnt at Oxford and said that he had no regrets. "I think the only way to get drugs legalised is for as many people as possible to break the law until society accepts it as normal," he said.

A survey of 250 Oxford undergraduates earlier this year disclosed that 41 per cent had tried drugs.

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Half of all new homes to be built in green belt

Minister says that pressure from environmental groups for urban renewal is unrealistic, report

Nick Nuttall and **Rachel Kelly**

THE Government is to go ahead with building 2.2 million homes on farm land and in the green belt.

Green groups had been pressing ministers to ensure that up to 75 per of the 4.4 million homes due to be built in the next 20 years would be on derelict and abandoned urban land.

But yesterday Richard Caborn, the Planning Minister, dashed their hopes, insisting that he would keep to the last Government's target that 50 per cent of the housing would be on previously developed land.

The target is lower than the 60 per cent figure suggested in a Green Paper on housing development last year. But after consultation the Tories decided to opt for the 50 per cent target, according to a spokesman at the Environment Department.

Yesterday Mr Caborn told the House of Commons that the higher targets, although desirable, were not realistic. "The target for using previously developed land remains at 50 per cent. While it is true that the previous Government proposed a target of 60 per cent, we have not changed the target. I set it at 50 per cent. If we can achieve that and over I would welcome that."

It means that an area of countryside larger than London will be lost to development, according to the Council for the Protection of Rural England.

Mr Caborn's comments sparked anger among green campaigners and opposition MPs, with accusations that the Government is anti-countryside.

The counties where most of the homes will be built on green-belt land are mainly in the the South, South East and South West. Today water companies will give warning that counties in parts of the South can no longer sustain housing development because of a shortage of water supplies.

Simon Festing, housing campaigner for Friends of the Earth, said: "Labour's approach on housing spells disaster for the countryside. To reject the commonsense alternative of urban regeneration through more housing is folly at such an early stage in the debate. Now we face ever-increasing urban sprawl."

Tony Burton of the Council for the Protection of Rural England said that building more homes in the countryside than was needed would also increase commuting, leading to increased emissions of carbon dioxide. This would make it harder for the Government to meet its ambitious target of cutting greenhouse gases by 20 per cent by 2010.

"It also flies in the face of all the research which shows that local authorities have barely begun to look at the capacity of their urban areas," he said.

Tim Yeo, the Conservative spokesman on the environment and former Environment Minister, said: "We are gobbling up land much too quickly. The only way to slow it down is to move the target up to 60 per cent and in the medium term to 75 per cent. I am confident that that figure is perfectly attainable with a change in policies on land use."

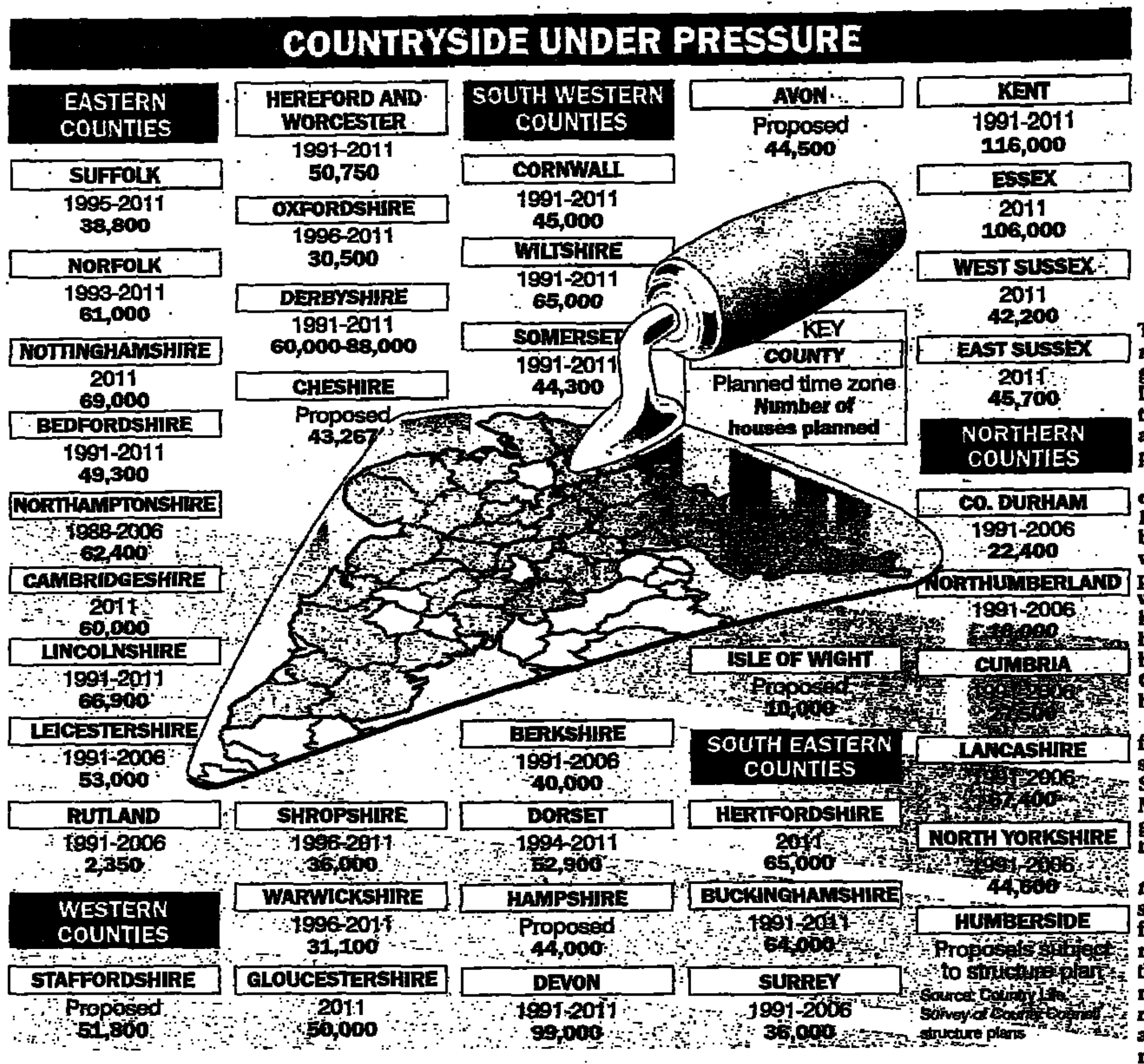
He said that there were already signs that the Government was prepared to sacrifice the green belt to development.

A spokesman from the Department of the Environment said: "The Government recognises that there is a growing concern about the green belt. But green belts have doubled in area duing the past 20 years, whereas the amount of land in urban use has gone up by just over 10 per cent during the same period."

The plan to get 60 per cent of the new housing into inner city sites was proposed by John Gummer, the former Environment Secretary, at the launch last year of the Government's Green Paper *Household Growth: Where shall we Live?*

The UK Round Table on Sustainable Development, which advises government, later proposed a more ambitious target of 75 per cent for urban regeneration.

COUNTRYSIDE UNDER PRESSURE


EASTERN COUNTIES
SUFFOLK 1995-2011 38,800
NORFOLK 1993-2011 61,000
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE 2011 69,000
BEDFORDSHIRE 1991-2011 49,300
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE 1988-2006 62,400
CAMBRIDGESHIRE 2011 60,000
LINCOLNSHIRE 1991-2011 66,900
LEICESTERSHIRE 1991-2006 53,000
RUTLAND 1991-2006 2,350
WESTERN COUNTIES
STAFFORDSHIRE Proposed 51,800
HEREFORD AND WORCESTER 1991-2011 50,750
OXFORDSHIRE 1996-2011 30,500
DERBYSHIRE 1991-2011 60,000-88,000
CHESHIRE Proposed 43,267
SHROPSHIRE 1996-2011 36,000
WARWICKSHIRE 1996-2011 31,100
GLOUCESTERSHIRE 2011 50,000
SOUTH WESTERN COUNTIES
CORNWALL 1991-2011 45,000
WILTSHIRE 1991-2011 65,000
SOMERSET 1991-2011 44,300
BERKSHIRE 1991-2006 40,000
DORSET 1994-2011 52,900
HAMPSHIRE Proposed 44,000
DEVON 1991-2011 99,000
AVON Proposed 44,500
KEY
COUNTY
Planned time zone
Number of houses planned
ISLE OF WIGHT Proposed 10,000
SOUTH EASTERN COUNTIES
HERTFORDSHIRE 2011 65,000
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE 1991-2011 64,000
SURREY 1991-2006 36,000
KENT 1991-2011 116,000
ESSEX 2011 106,000
WEST SUSSEX 2011 42,200
EAST SUSSEX 2011 45,700
NORTHERN COUNTIES
CO. DURHAM 1991-2006 22,400
NORTHUMBERLAND 1991-2006 [illegible]
CUMBRIA 1991-2006 27,500
LANCASHIRE 1991-2006 157,400
NORTH YORKSHIRE 1991-2006 44,600
HUMBERSIDE Proposals subject to structure plan

Source: Country Life, Survey of County Council structure plans

Kent takes brunt with 116,000 houses

BY RACHEL KELLY, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

THE Garden of England may become Britain's biggest building site with at least 116,000 homes expected to be built in Kent by 2011, an analysis of county councils' plans reveals.

The second worst affected county is Essex, where 106,000 new houses will be built, followed by Devon, where 99,000 homes are planned. The counties that will escape the bulk of new house-building include Durham, where only 22,400 homes are expected, and Cumbria, with 27,500 new homes expected by 2006.

In general, the survey found that the greatest pressure for homes will be on the South East, South West, East Midlands and Eastern regions, with the North under the least pressure.

Clive Aslet, editor of *Country Life*, which published the survey today, said: "These figures are a uniformly dismal tally. Anyone who keeps their eyes open, travelling round the shire counties, will realise the damage that has already been wrought in recent decades. These plans show the blueprint for development in the future. Enough is enough."

The survey highlights the pressure on green belt land and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Government figures show that there will be 4.4 million new households by 2016 because of the growing number of single people, the divorced, and elderly. The councils' structure plans give developers an idea of where planning permission is likely to be granted.

Green belt land is threatened in Hertfordshire, villages on the Chiltern Downs in Buckinghamshire may be lost in urban sprawl, housing is expected to multiply near Stansted airport in Essex, and there are fears for green belt land in Northumberland.

New houses for commuters are planned in Durham, new towns are planned for East Sussex, and Devon villages may become large towns, the survey warns.

The Painswick Valley in Gloucestershire is under threat from Stroud District Council, which proposes to build 1,500 new houses. The valley is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty immortalised by Laurie Lee, and villages such as Dursley, Cam, and Painswick are expected to bear the brunt of Gloucestershire County Council's structure plan.

There are plans to develop green belt land surrounding Slough, where 40,000 hectares are to be released for 1,000 new homes. Several Berkshire greenfield sites have been earmarked, including Sandelford, near Newbury, where 1,250 dwellings are expected by 2006.

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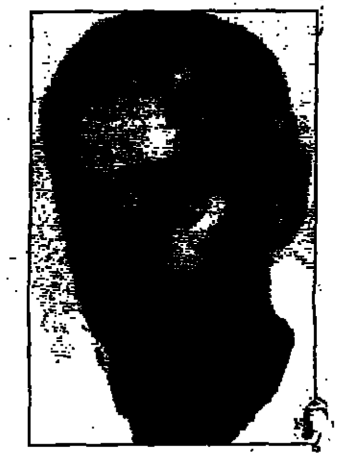
TI 78

Animal rights activist guilty of firebomb shops blitz

BY A STAFF REPORTER



Horne: left incendiaries

AN ANIMAL rights activist who waged a one-man terror campaign against high street shops causing millions of pounds worth of damage was yesterday convicted of a series of firebomb attacks.

Barry Horne, who is unemployed, was unanimously convicted of arson attacks on shops on the Isle of Wight and of planting incendiary devices in the Broadmead Shopping Centre in the heart of Bristol between 1984 and 1985.

The jury also brought in unanimous guilty verdicts on five counts of attempted arson andbeing reckless as to whether life was endangered.

Judge Simon Darwall-Smith adjourned the case for pre-sentence reports until Friday December 5.

As he left the dock Horne, extended his right arm in a fist salute to a handful of friends in the public gallery.

Horne chose not to give evidence on his own behalf and no witnesses were called for the defence, but it was submitted for him that he had not been reckless and that he had not intended to harm anyone. Devices found in his possession were timed to go off after midnight, when shops would be empty.

Ian Glen, QC, prosecuting, told the jury that the Isle of Wight Fire Services were stretched to the limit on the night of August 23, 1994, when shops were hit in Ryde and Newport on the Isle of Wight by firebomb attacks. The Fire Service had to call for reinforcements from mainland Hampshire. Dozens of people had to be evacuated from nearby premises but no-one was injured.

He maintained the attacks were an act of "political terrorism" in support of animal rights.

The jury heard that the worst-hit premises was Boots, in Newport, which was destroyed in a £2.8 million blaze.

Fire investigators recovered several firebombs which had failed to detonate. These were similar in construction to ones found when officers of the South East Regional Crime Squad arrested Horne after a month-long surveillance operation.

Four cigarette-packet explosive devices were concealed inside his jacket and a police raid of his Birmingham flat revealed a further six of the same type.

After conviction the jury was told that Horne, 45, had previously been before the courts for his animal rights activities.

In September 1988 at Lancaster Crown Court he was given a six-month suspended sentence and ordered to pay £750 fines and costs for attempting to steal a dolphin from Marineland centre at Morecambe.

And in November 1991 he was given a three-year sentence for possessing an incendiary device — a plastic bottle with flammable liquid and a timer.

At Oxford Crown Court in February 1995 he was ordered to do 80 hours of community service for having taken part in violent disorder at a scientific conference in Oxford in September 1993.

Country house's price doubles to £12 million

BY RACHEL KELLY

Culham Court estate is on the Thames near Henley

A GRADE II listed house on the Thames was sold yesterday for £12 million, almost double its asking price, a City fund manager. The selling agents believe the sale is the largest price paid for a country house this year.

Culham Court is a late 18th-century Georgian house in Berkshire with 689 acres running down to the Thames, owned by a family trust of the Berens family, who made their money in banking. Its sale to Martyn Arbib, chairman of Perpetual Fund Management Group, bears witness to the strength of the market for prime country houses to the west of London.

The house was originally priced at £6.5 million by Knight Frank in August to reflect the rarity of a house with so much land near Henley. Interest from potential buyers was immediate. The house was sold to Mr Arbib after strong competition from one other unnamed buyer. The sale was agreed after what the agents describe as "intense negotiation".

Rupert Bradstock, from the buying agents Property Vision, estimates that prices of country estates have risen by 30 per cent this year. There is special demand for estates to the west of London because of access to Heathrow.

Mr Arbib, 58, started Perpetual in 1973 in Henley and has built a business managing funds worth over £8.1 billion without uprooting to London.

CARL RUTHERFORD

Mrs Maine with Emma, Alice and Thomas. She used to gauge their moods by the looks on their faces

Hearing implant adds spice to life

By Paul Whittaker

AFTER 31 years in a silent world, the first sounds Suzie Maine heard were not exactly music to her ears.

"What a racket, there's no character to it at all," the 35-year-old mother-of-three said after a pioneering cochlea implant operation to restore her hearing gave her her first experience of music in the form of the Spice Girls album owned by her daughter Emma. But hearing her children's voices for the first time evoked a flood of new emotions. Mrs Maine previously had to study the faces of Emma, 8, Thomas, 6, and Alice, 2, to interpret their moods. "It's absolutely brilliant and I can now tell when my children are laughing or crying without looking at their faces first. My daughter Emma is constantly making different noises and watching me for a reaction."

Mrs Maine, from Bishop Auckland, Durham, is the first person in the world to be fitted with the new type of implant. The device — which took a French company 18 months to make and cost £16,000 to develop — is the size of two 50p pieces put together. It contains three electrodes that stimulate the hearing nerve and feed sounds to the brain. Surgeons inserted it behind her left ear in a four-hour NHS operation at North Riding Infirmary in Middlesbrough.

Head is accused of hitting unruly pupil

By Paul Wilkinson

A JUNIOR school headteacher accused of assaulting a ten-year-old pupil who was disrupting a lesson went on trial yesterday.

Ian Blakeley, 47, denies causing actual bodily harm to the boy during an art class at Crosland Moor Junior School last year. He claims that the boy had been showing off and he was simply pushing his head back towards the work he was supposed to be doing.

Yesterday at Bradford Crown Court, Sean Morris, for the prosecution, said that a doctor had examined the boy's cheek the day after the incident and found it to be reddened and swollen.

Mr Morris told the jury that the boy, from Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, was known for his disruptive behaviour. On December 16 Mr Blakeley, who had been head since 1993, took the class to cover for the usual teacher.

Mr Morris said: "The boy was playing up as he was wont to do. He was told to behave but he carried on. Mr Blakeley lost his temper and strode towards the boy, got hold of him, either by his jumper or with his hand under his chin, and slapped him with the other hand. The boy said that he slapped him across his face with the open palm of his hand and called him a squirt."

Ian Blakeley and his wife Hazel at court yesterday

The boy told his father when he went home and his parent called in the police. Three days later Mr Blakeley was interviewed by Huddersfield police officers. He told them the boy was "sniggering and making noises".

Mr Morris said: "He said he went over to shout at him. He said, 'I don't normally shout but I did it deliberately to shock him. I got hold of his face because he was deliberately looking away from me. I pushed his face to direct him towards his work and said, 'This is why you come to school'.

"It was not my intention to slap him, I was trying to direct him towards the task he was meant to be doing. I did nothing to hurt him. He cried and sulked and I told him to get on with his work. He later produced some very good work."

Giving evidence on a closed-circuit television link, the boy admitted he was regularly in trouble and that his father had been called to see staff on at least five occasions about his behaviour.

He said he was talking to a girl classmate when Mr Blakeley attacked him. "He had not spoken to me before, he just went for me," he said. He said the teacher seized him by the neck, forcing his face up and then slapped him hard across the left cheek. "My neck was stinging all day and the next, and my cheek was sore."

Cross-examined by Jonathan Rose, counsel for Mr Blakeley, the boy admitted that he was in trouble most days. He denied that he had been showing off, or lying when he said that the teacher had hit him hard.

An 11-year-old girl from the same class said she had seen Mr Blakeley take the boy by the jumper after several classmates had complained about the boy putting them off their work. She said she saw the teacher hit the boy across the face. "I was shocked, the rest of the class went quiet. I didn't think Mr Blakeley would do something like that," she said. Cross-examined she agreed that it was not a hard blow. "It was a kind of push," she said.

Another classmate, who was aged 10 at the time, said in a video interview with police: "I didn't think Mr Blakeley hit him hard and I started to laugh. I didn't even think he had hit him. I heard no sound and I didn't see the boy cry."

The trial continues.

Sacked smoker loses his case

By Simon de Bruxelles

A MAN who was sacked for smoking in his car in the company car park yesterday lost his claim for unfair dismissal.

An industrial tribunal ruled that the man's employer had the right to dismiss him for breaking a strict no-smoking rule. Craig Bowery, 23, a forklift truck driver employed by Anchor Foods, was sacked in June after he was spotted smoking in his car by a manager at the company's butter factory in Swindon, Wiltshire.

Amanda Sandford, of the anti-smoking lobby ASH, said yesterday: "I have a lot of sympathy with him. It is hard to just give up, because tobacco is very addictive. The fact that this man risked his job for a cigarette highlights this."

The tribunal in Bristol was told that the firm banned its 430 employees from smoking for hygiene reasons and ordered them not to leave the site during working hours.

Mr Bowery, a father of two who had worked at the site for four years, told the tribunal: "The policy was totally ignored by a lot of people. About 50 per cent of the employees there smoke. I thought I would get a verbal warning but not be sacked. After all I was some considerable distance from where food is produced."

Colin Sara, the tribunal chairman, found that Anchor Foods was justified in sacking Mr Bowery. "It was made clear that smoking would not be tolerated," he said.

After the case Mr Bowery said: "Companies should set aside a room for people like us." Marjorie Nicholson, of the Freedom for Rights to Enjoy Smoking Tobacco (Forest), said last night: "This is outrageous. Smokers have rights, too, and companies need to accommodate them."

Martin Lorigan, for Anchor Foods, said the ruling vindicated the company's ban: "What is more important, hygiene or allowing employees to smoke in their cars?"

Gardener's home claim thrown out

By Joanna Bale

A GARDENER who worked for seven years without pay for a wealthy widow who promised him he would inherit her house, but then secretly changed her mind, lost his claim at the High Court yesterday.

Robert Taylor was expecting to inherit Gertrude Parker's £250,000 bungalow and its half-acre garden in Crowthorne, Berkshire, where he had worked for 21 years. He now faces legal costs of up to £75,000.

Judge Weeks ruled that there was no law forcing anyone to keep a promise. Although Mrs Parker had promised Mr Taylor in 1988 and 1991 that she would be making a will in his favour, he said: "There is a difference between saying you will make a will and saying you will not revoke it. There was nothing unfair, unjust or morally objectionable to Mrs Parker's change of her will in 1995." In that will Mrs Parker, who died the following year aged 86, left the bulk of her estate to Margaret Bosher, one of her carers, and £1,000 to Mr Taylor, who acted as a carer in the last years of her life.

The judge said Mrs Parker believed that Mrs Bosher was "more likely to carry out her wishes" and live in the house rather than sell it to developers. "What could be criticised was not telling Mr Taylor at the time when he was working without pay on the understanding that he was to inherit the home."

But he said that this "certainly did not entitle" Mr Taylor to the house.

After the hearing, Mr Taylor, 57, from Camberley, Surrey, said that the costs would "clean me out", adding: "She basically used me. She was frightened that if I stopped going there she would have to go into care."

Mr Taylor said after the judgment that Mrs Bosher had said she would make him an offer.

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AEG Full-Size 'Oko Favorit' Dishwasher 12 place settings. Model 4040. Was £479.99. 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION◆ £100 SALE PRICE £379.99

BOSCH Slimline Ecological Dishwasher
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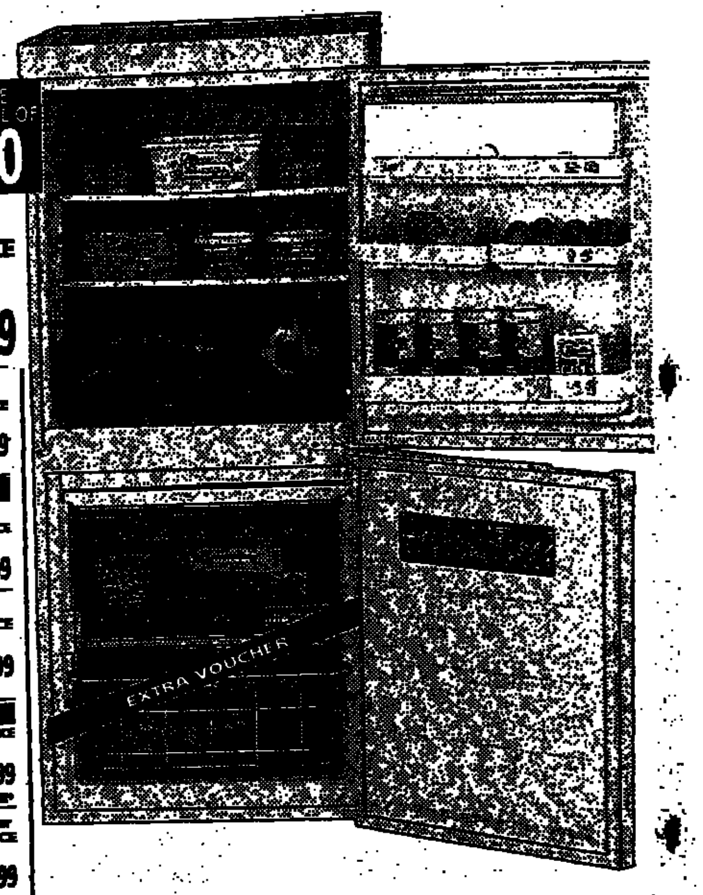

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- Salad crisper.

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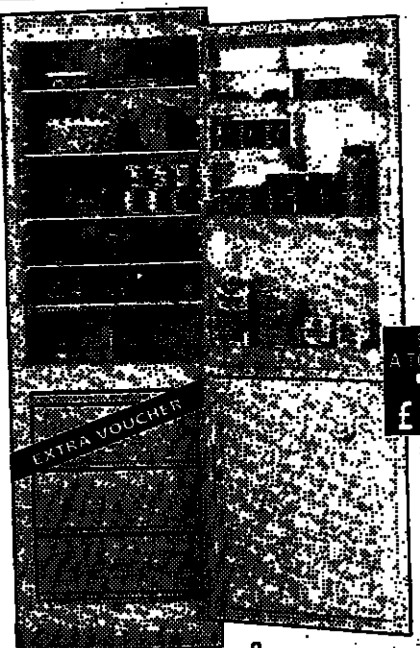

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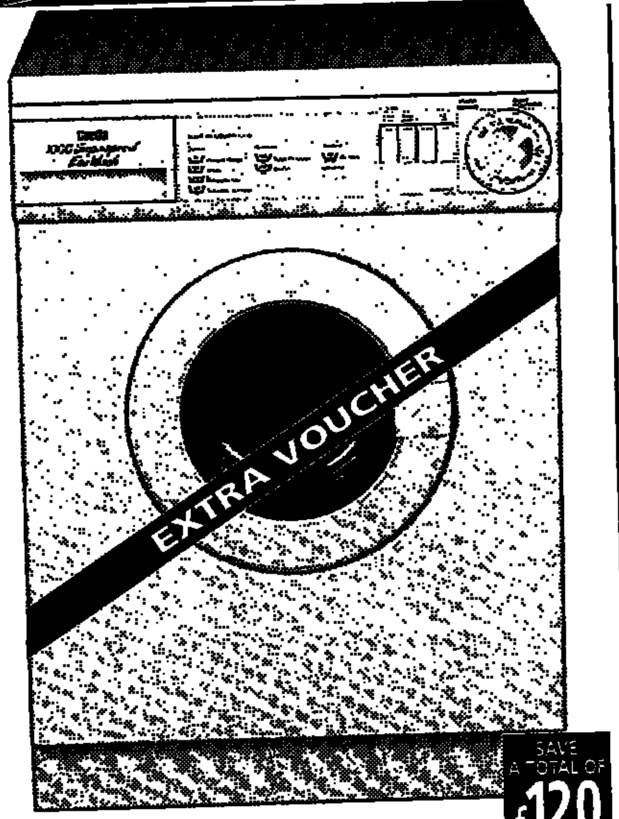

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- Half load option.
- Economy wash.

Model WM52P. Was £399.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION◆ £80 SALE PRICE £319.99

CREDA [illegible] 1200 Spin 'Energy Saver' Autowasher Automatic half load. Model 17087. Was £419.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION◆ £90 SALE PRICE £329.99

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AEG 800 Spin Autowasher Model 50400. Was £479.99. 9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION◆ £50 SALE PRICE £429.99

HOTPOINT 1200 Spin 'Aquarius' Autowasher Model WM64. Was £529.99. 10 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION◆ £100 SALE PRICE £429.99

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SAVE £80

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1000 Spin 'Aquarius' Autowasher
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- Aquarius Wash System Plus.
- Intelligent care.
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Model WM62.
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INDESIT 1200 Spin Washer Dryer Model WDG1295. Price Excluding Trade-In £429.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION◆ £80 TRADE-IN PRICE £349.99

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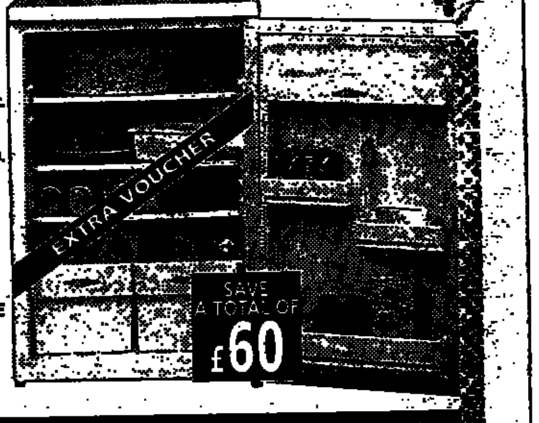

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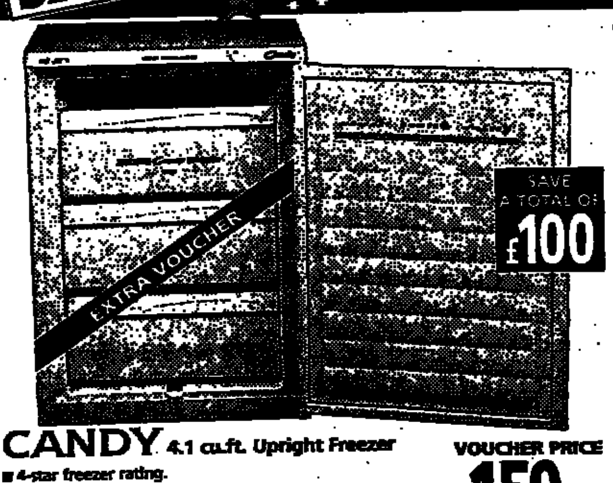

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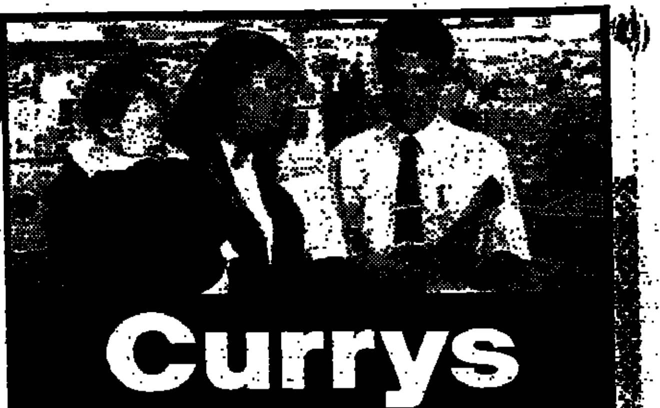

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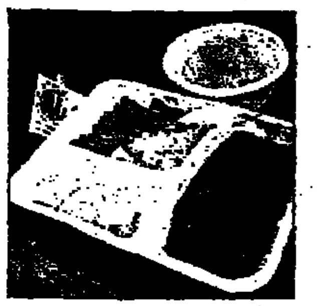
Wheeling in a tasty dish to set before a queen

By Daniel McGrory



Lunch is served: the most popular meal on wheels

THE roast beef and vegetables looked appetising enough in the tin foil dish, but Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother graciously declined a meals-on-wheels delivery yesterday because of a prior lunch date.

The appearance of the delivery van outside her London residence had tourists and passers-by wondering at the Royal Family's financial state. They were more bewildered when the Queen Mother could be seen lifting the lid and nodding with approval at the apple pie and custard on offer for dessert. Had it not been for a date with the Canadian High Commissioner, she told her doorstep delivery men, she would have welcomed their delivery.

Organisers of the second annual Meals on Wheels Day knew that the guaranteed way to assure publicity was to deliver their most popular menu to the nation's most celebrated pensioner, as they campaigned for more government funding and national guidelines on what councils should provide.

They had not checked the Clarence House diary before picking the date. A spokesman for the Queen Mother said: "She would have happily eaten the meal but she had this long-standing engagement. Even so, she was insistent that the van should be seen at Clarence House as she supports the scheme." The royal verdict was that the menu was considerably more appetising than the suet dumplings and rice pudding she ladled out when delivering meals on wheels during the Blitz.

Roger Denton, chairman of the Advisory Board for Social Services Catering, said: "It brought back memories for her. During the war she had to serve rice pudding for almost every meal for children because it contained milk and calcium. They hated it. She was pleased to see we have moved on since then."

Ministers, MPs and local dignitaries spent much of yesterday preparing and delivering meals as part of the campaign. More than half of each year's 26 million meals are still delivered by the Women's Royal Voluntary Service, of which the 97-year-old Queen Mother is president. Age Concern and Help the Aged are among other charities who help. Roast beef and apple pie remain the overwhelming favourites.

Mr Denton said: "It is a disgrace that pensioners get the same money wherever they live, and yet in some counties they get deliveries every day and in others only two. Some pay 70p for a fine meal, others pay £2 for often boring, cold food. Many councils offer daily choices, ethnic varieties, and the best provide two meals a day, but there is no agreed programme."

The service began in 1943 in Welwyn Garden City, where many evacuees from the London Blitz were living. The WRVS was asked to help when a chronic flu epidemic left many of the evacuees unable to leave their homes to reach food stations. Volunteers delivered ration packs and bowls of thin stew.

By 1948, the National Assistance Act provided for government grants to local authorities who wanted to offer meals on wheels. WRVS volunteers delivered many in prams. In 1957, a Private Member's Bill to force all councils to provide meals was thrown out, but in 1962 the Commons agreed that local authorities should offer grants to voluntary organisations providing meals on wheels, and where possible offer their own service.

Mr Denton said: "The Care in the Community Act makes provision that services, in particular meals, should be provided to keep people in their own homes. What it doesn't stipulate is what should be provided."

JOHN STILLWELL/PA

Royal delivery: the Queen Mother and Roger Denton, right, with meals-on-wheels providers Patricia Cooke and Ahmed Allachi

Gala concert in aid of charities becomes memorial to Princess

By Alan Hamilton

THE Queen last night took the place of the late Diana, Princess of Wales, at a concert in London which was planned as a gala but became a memorial.

A near-capacity audience of 3,000 filled the Festival Hall to hear a programme of Mozart which is expected to raise £75,000 for Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children and the 175th anniversary appeal of the Royal Academy of Music. It is the first time since the Princess's death that the Queen has taken her place.

When the concert was planned earlier this year, the Princess accepted an invitation to be guest of honour at a function in aid of two charities with which she had been connected. She was the hospital's president and made frequent private visits there. She had also been president of the Royal Academy of Music since 1985, but gave up the post, along with about 100 charities, upon her divorce in 1996.

After the Princess's death in August, the organisers decided that the event should become a memorial, and asked the Queen to take her place. Her acceptance was seen at the time as a gesture of reconciliation to the Princess. The Queen in fact outranked the Princess in both charities, being patron of both the hospital and the academy.

Last night's programme, performed by the Royal Academy Sinfonia with Sir Colin Davis as conductor, was altered to reflect the changed nature of the occasion. A Mozart violin concerto and the *Symphony No 36* were dropped in favour of his requiem. One of the soloists was Lynne Dawson, who sang part of the Verdi *Requiem* at the Princess's funeral.

When the Queen arrived she was met by Sir Brian Hill, chairman of the hospital, and Guy Whalley, chairman of the Royal Academy. She was presented with a posy by Sarah Mowat, 15, from Enfield, northwest London, whose experience straddles both charities. Having been treated at Great Ormond Street for seven years, she now plays viola in the academy's junior orchestra.

Hospital officials admit that the Princess's death has been a big blow. "She was a great asset as a fundraiser, and a great boost to morale with her frequent visits," a spokeswoman said. No decision had yet been made on who should replace her. Nor has the Royal Academy yet found a new president.

HOTLINE FOR FUNDRAISERS

A hotline has been set up to cope with the number of people wanting to raise money for the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, organisers said yesterday. Michael Gibbins, a fund trustee, said: "We have been impressed by the number of people who have a genuine interest in raising money for the fund through commercial ventures." He hoped the hotline would encourage enterprise by providing clear guidelines for obtaining approved status from the fund. The hotline number is 0839 000 500.

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Council staff pay-offs put pension funds at risk

Auditors attack number of early retirements at cost to taxpayer of £35,000, reports

Valerie Elliott

PENSION funds for millions of local authority workers are being put at risk because thousands of white-collar staff — mainly senior grades — have taken advantage of generous early retirement packages.

Only 21 per cent of council workers retire at the age of 65 with up to 70 per cent in some authorities retiring early on health grounds, according to an Audit Commission report published today.

Last year the average age was 54 with 32,000 out of 42,000 retirements taken early at an average cost to the taxpayer of £35,000. The cost of a senior official retiring early can be as much as £300,000. Early retirements over the past six years have left councils facing a pension bill of £5.7 billion.

When employees in private companies take early retirement their pension entitlements are reduced. But in local government, an official who retires early suffers no reduction in his pension, indeed councils make top-up payments. In most cases the pension is boosted by payments to cover the years an official would have worked if he had stayed on until normal retirement age.

The Audit Commission says that the viability of the local government pension scheme is under threat unless drastic action is taken. It recommends tighter checks on early retirement taken on health grounds, including an independent medical assessment. Councils should make spot checks on the health of staff who have taken early retirement to see if they are well enough to return to work.

Councillors should ensure they are involved in decisions on early retirement and know the full costs of pension packages. Senior officials should be made more accountable for decisions they take on granting early retirements.

The commission clearly believes the discretion of officials to offer early retirement packages is being abused. The report states: "In recent years some councils have used the scheme to meet objectives other than those for which it is originally devised. The use of early retirement has drifted from being exceptional to becoming expected."

The report highlights a system of "bumped" redundancy schemes in which highly paid senior officers are moved to lower-grade posts before early retirement. That lower post is made redundant but a new senior officer is recruited for the higher grade.

Figures show that the highest paid 20 per cent of people leaving early are responsible for incurring over 40 per cent of the cost of early retirement.

Without proper scrutiny, the commission says that councils are vulnerable to allegations of doing deals "behind closed doors".

The commission report also shows that the number of white-collar staff has increased by 15 per cent in the past five years even though overall staff numbers have fallen as authorities contract out their manual work.

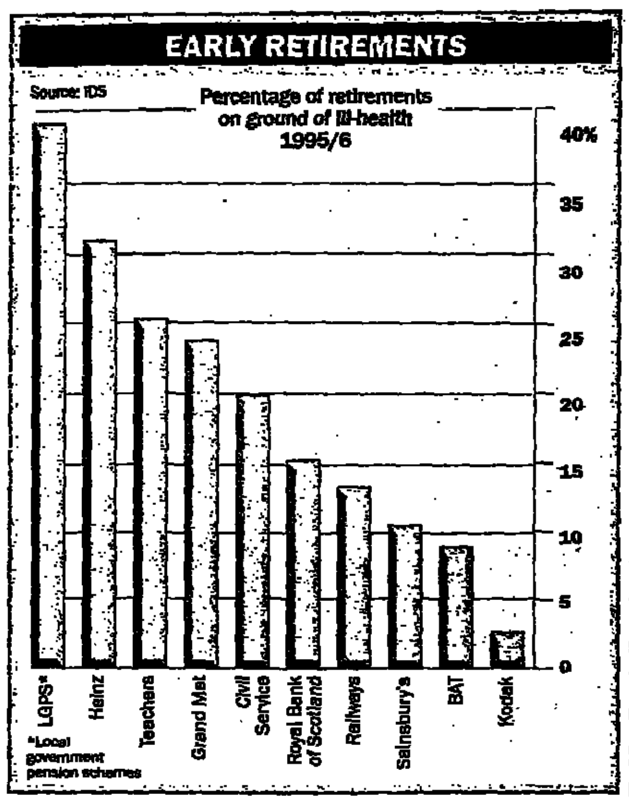
Few businesses could afford to provide such generous early retirement terms, the report says. "Average ill-health retirement at 39 per cent, let alone almost 70 per cent in some cases is difficult to defend."

Auditors acknowledge that they have heard "anecdotal" stories that some officials have taken early retirement on health grounds and then gone on to set up consultancy businesses or other work, but they do not have proof. The commission, however, is to send auditors to check the accounts of 400 local authorities in the coming year and hope to identify any such cases.

The commission believes that local authorities should set a target of just 25 per cent for retirements on poor health grounds. The report, *Retiring Nature*, says: "To continue the present level of early retirement may well put impossible pressures on pensions funds."

Sir Jeremy Beecham, chairman of the Local Government Association, said that local authorities were already tightening rules for pension schemes and making savings.

Leading article, page 21



The report uncovers levels of early retirement in local government well above private industry

Former officers rehired as well-paid consultants

By Mark Henderson

COUNCIL officers who take early retirement are routinely re-employed in consultancy roles or in new posts by the local authorities they have just left.

In Edinburgh, Andrew Gold, formerly head of service at the City Council's property services department, took early retirement from his £51,000 post in March with an enhanced pension. He was immediately rehired by the council as a consultant on the planned £24 million refurbishment of Usher Hall, one of the city's main music venues, at a rate of £200 a day. One of his main tasks in his council job had been overseeing the Usher Hall project. John Cunningham, another Edinburgh council officer, took early retirement from his job at Lothian Regional Council when it merged with Edinburgh District Council earlier this year. He was then appointed to a job in the property services department of the new unitary authority, City of Edinburgh Council.

Daphne Slade, a Conservative councillor, said: "There is no way this can be the best way to spend council taxpayers' money."

In Islington, North London, Conservative opposition councillors said that early retirement had frequently been used as a means of easing out controversial or "second-rate" figures with minimum fuss.

Philip Nash, director of finance at Torfaen council in Gwent, and treasurer of the Greater Gwent Pension Fund which represents five councils, said he knew of several former officers who had been re-employed by local authorities in consultative roles. "It can make a bit of a mockery of the system sometimes," he said.

Mr Nash said: "The councils I represent will each budget between £500,000 and £1 million for pension costs incurred through early retirement in 1998-9. That is money that should be being spent on schools and social services."

Weary judge says he will stay silent on Woodward

By Tunku Varadarajan

THE judge who set Louise Woodward free has asked the public to leave him alone, saying that he would not talk about the case "even on his deathbed".

Speaking to *The Times* yesterday, Judge Hiller Bellin Zobel betrayed the obvious fatigue of a man whose life has been held hostage by the Woodward case for nearly a month.

Dressed in his shirt sleeves, with his trademark bow tie slackly fastened, Judge Zobel, 65, was a shadow of his usual jaunty self as he sat hunched in his office armchair. After greeting me, he said: "I'll talk to you about Oliver Wendell Holmes. I'll talk to you about history. I'll talk to you about the Boston Massacre, but I can't talk to you about the Woodward case. It is now out of my hands. The case no longer has anything to do with me. It's now a part of the appellate procedure.

"This has been a long case," he said, his voice brittle with exhaustion. "But it has left Judge Zobel's court for good. My mother said 'never say never', but even on my deathbed I would never talk about the case."

He sounded relieved. The attention he has received this week has been relentless. He has had to change his telephone number. Where once he rode home on the subway every evening, he now drives home with a bodyguard. He has been threatened, an official in his office revealed.

Zobel: now has to drive home with bodyguard

A woman who works with him at the Middlesex County Superior Court told me that Judge Zobel is "totally debilitated and drained by the trial". She said: "He has lost that panache. He's lost the mischief and the showmanship. He is now looking old and acting old. He needs a holiday. He needs to spend a few weeks just tending to his garden."

A court clerk revealed, however: "His calendar is full for Christmas. He's not going anywhere."

☐ Thomas Reilly, the District Attorney of Middlesex County, is expected to apply today for a "stay order" against Judge Zobel's decision to free Miss Woodward. If successful, his application could send Miss Woodward back to prison while her appeal is considered. In private, however, state prosecutors concede that the application has little chance of success.

☐ In a signed letter published yesterday, 47 doctors, all specialists in the treatment of child abuse, dismissed the medical witnesses who testified for the defence as "unreliable".

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BY MARK HENDERSON

another Edinburgh council officer, early retirement from job at Lothian Regional Council when it merged with Edinburgh District Council earlier this year. He was then appointed to a job in the property services department of the new unitary authority, City of Edinburgh Council.

Stephen Hinde, a Conservative councillor, said: "There is no way this can be the best way to spend council taxpayers' money."

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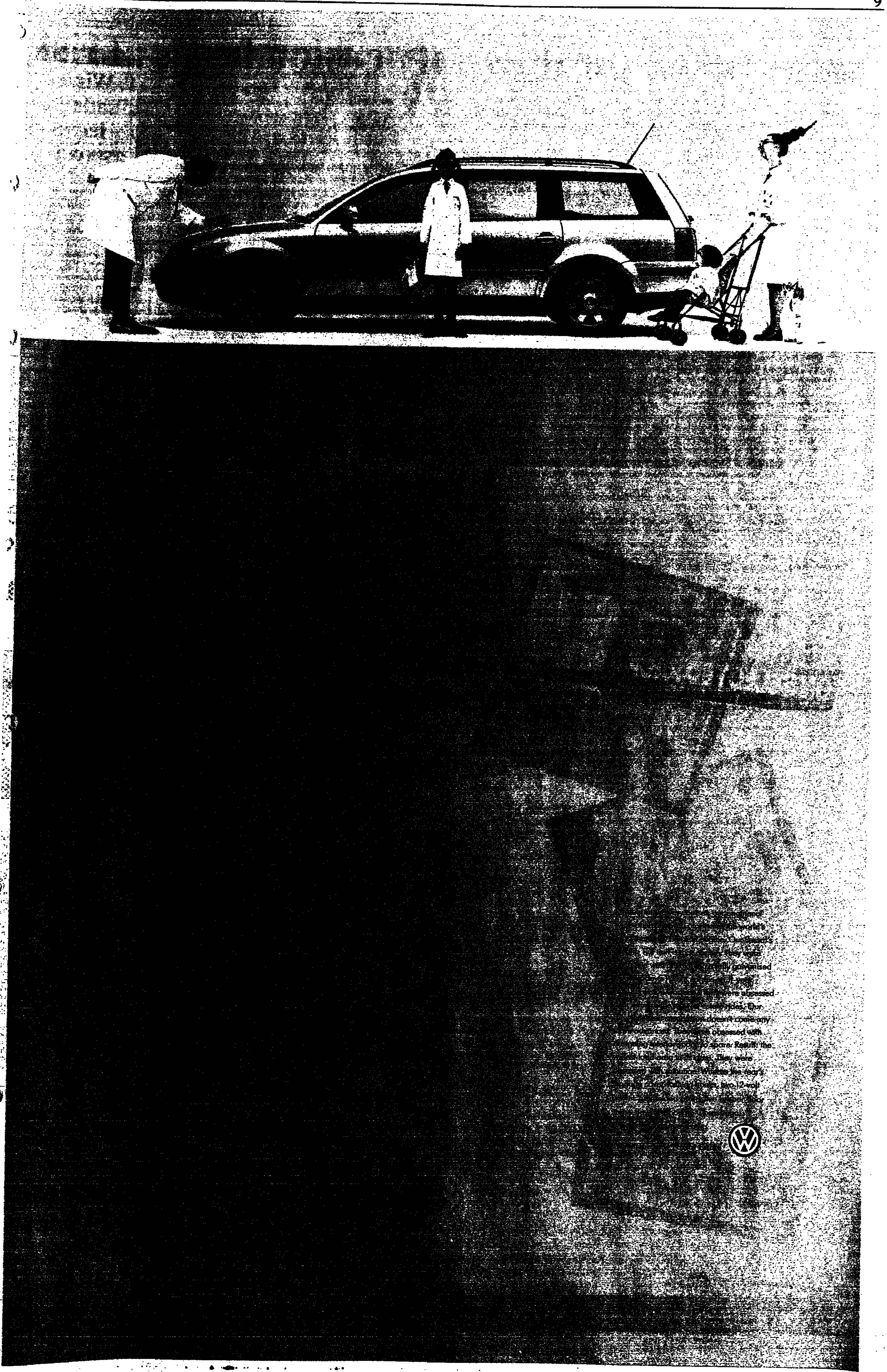

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Judge jailed for third drink-driving offence

'Broken man' starts his sentence as campaigners claim 28-day term is too lenient, reports **Daniel McGrory**

A FORMER county court judge was jailed for 28 days yesterday after admitting his third drink-driving offence in 12 years.

Angus MacArthur, who resigned from the bench earlier this week, was described in court as "a broken man" who admitted to being an alcoholic. When he was arrested at 9.30am on October 15 after a collision with a woman motorist, police breathalysed him and found he was more than twice the legal limit.

MacArthur, 55, is believed to be only the second judge to be imprisoned in Britain in the modern era. Drink-drive campaigners yesterday criticised as too lenient his jail term and a £2,000 fine and ten-year driving ban.

Maria Cape, secretary of the Campaign Against Drink-Driving, said the sentence was nothing. "Judges should be whiter than white. It's a scandal and a disgrace that he has been allowed to continue for so many years."

The court at Peterborugh was told how MacArthur regarded his judicial position as a "lonely existence" and how, since his divorce in 1991, he had lived alone in a rented flat in Stamford, Lincolnshire.

After his previous conviction in 1993, he was warned by the Lord Chancellor that it was his final chance.

MacArthur, who normally presided over civil disputes at Peterborough County Court, had been on medical leave since October 14, the eve of his arrest.

A statement from the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, said MacArthur was suffering from alcohol dependence and depression.

Ronald Bartle, the stipendiary magistrate, told MacArthur: "There is no more painful task than for one member of the judiciary to pass sentence on another.

"But I have to bear in mind that the law must be even-handed. Those of us who sit in judgment on others do have a substantial responsibility to scrupulously obey the law ourselves."

He said that he had taken into account MacArthur's personal circumstances, his poor health and excellent references about his abilities as a judge. Mr Bartle added: "But this is your third conviction for an offence which all too often results in injury or even death to other road users."

Sylvia Cundell, for the prosecution, said MacArthur had drunk a substantial amount of whisky the previous evening. On his way to Peterborough a car in front stopped suddenly and MacArthur's foot slipped on a pedal, sending his vehicle into another.

As he stopped to comfort the woman driver, police smelt alcohol on his breath and tested him. He had 81 milligrams in 100 millilitres. The legal limit is 35mg.

The court was told of his two previous convictions. In 1984 he was fined £300 for being drunk in charge of his car. Four years ago he was fined £3,000 and banned from driving for two years after he admitted being more than two and a half times over the legal limit.

The hearing was interrupted by a man who alleged that MacArthur had been drunk when he sentenced him to a jail sentence. The man, Gordon Foster, 67, also shouted insults at MacArthur.

MacArthur began his sentence last night in Bedford jail where he is understood to have been put in the segregation unit for his own protection. It is expected he will move to an open jail.

The only other judge imprisoned in recent times was John Reeder, QC, a crown court recorder in his late 40s, of Maldon, Essex. He served 30 days in jail this spring for driving while five times over the alcohol limit.

Angus MacArthur, a lonely alcoholic who was suffering from depression

IN BRIEF

Winter sadness led to suicide

A woman killed herself because she could not bear the thought of another British winter, an inquest in Berkshire was told. Janet Thomas, 44, was found hanging from the banisters of her home in Newbury on November 5 by her husband David who had gone to collect a prescription for his wife's seasonal affective disorder, triggered by lack of sunlight. Verdict: suicide.

Nuclear leak

Contractors staged a one-day strike after a radioactive leak at the Sellafield nuclear power plant in Cumbria. British Nuclear Fuels said the discharge of ruthenium did not breach legal limits. It has launched an inquiry.

Bones of past

A near-perfect skeleton of a rat-sized mammal, the Zhangehotherium quinquecuspidens, which died more than 140 million years ago, was found in Liaoning province, north-east China, the science journal *Nature* reported.

Player hit

Leicester City player Mark Robins, 27, was punched in the face by Paul Sisson, 34, of Duffield, Derbyshire, after moving in with his former wife. Magistrates fined Sisson £500 and ordered him to pay Robins £100 compensation.

Tunnel delays

Le Shuttle services through the Channel Tunnel were disrupted when one of the two tunnels was closed due to signalling problems. Passengers were delayed for up to three hours as trains were forced to use one track.

Big claret sold

A magnum of Château-Margaux 1900 has been sold for £11,000 at Sotheby's in London. Serena Sutcliffe, head of the firm's wine department, said it was "one of the most scented, the most magical of all the great 1900s".

Victory seat

An oak chair which was one of five carved from wood from Nelson's flagship, HMS *Victory*, was found at a house in Scotland during a routine valuation by a furniture specialist from Phillips. It is expected to fetch £50,000.

Man finds a deadly welcome at home

By Simon de Bruxelles

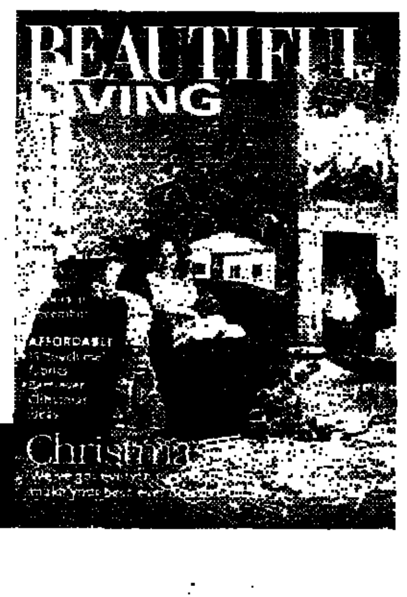
A BUSINESSMAN'S house move ended quickly when he discovered three deadly visitors were there ahead of him. Ben Hayes opened the lid of a banana box left in his new home, and found himself looking at three venomous Huntsman spiders from central America.

Even worse, the largest of the creatures sensed danger and fled into a hole in the kitchen wall. Yesterday Mr Hayes, 34, was staying elsewhere, and South Wales police were guarding the £55,000 home in Barry, waiting for an all-clear from environmental health officers who fumigated the property.

It is believed the last owner may have unwittingly brought the spiders home after a trip to Puerto Rico. Mr Hayes, 34, a builders' merchant, said: "I'm scared stiff of spiders. The two red spots on their backs seemed to say danger."

An expert in exotic animals identified the visitors, whose bite could be fatal to children, elderly people and the infirm. One of the smaller spiders has since died, and the other is now with a collector.

"You know how some homes feel right the moment you walk in."



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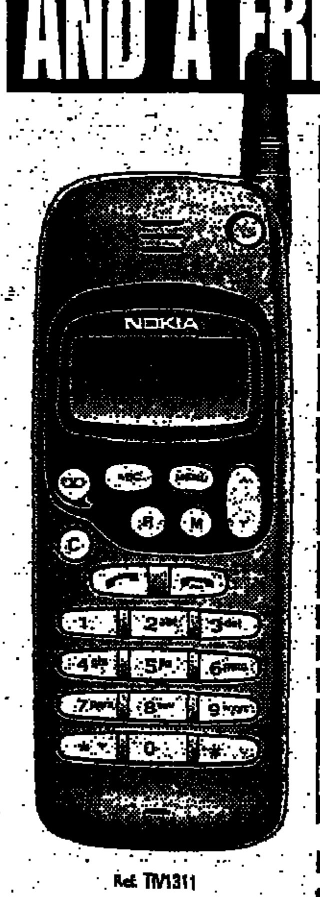

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Rail firms face fines after train inquiries failure

By Lin Jenkins

TRAIN companies are to face fines for giving passengers wrong information about ticket prices and train times after a survey showed that they were systematically failing with even the simplest inquiries.

John Swift, the rail regulator, said there needed to be a "quantum leap" in the quality of information given to passengers. One in ten inquiries made at stations and over the telephone by an anonymous team during the first three months of the year resulted in inaccurate information. That rose to two in ten when the inquiry concerned buying tickets in advance.

One third of inquiries about Sunday travel were answered incorrectly and one in five disabled passengers were given the wrong information about provisions to meet their special needs. However, even when the information given was wrong, passengers were as likely to be undercharged as overcharged.

"When you look at the level of failure, it is simply not acceptable," Mr Swift said. "There is no percentage which is ultimately acceptable unless it is 100 per cent."

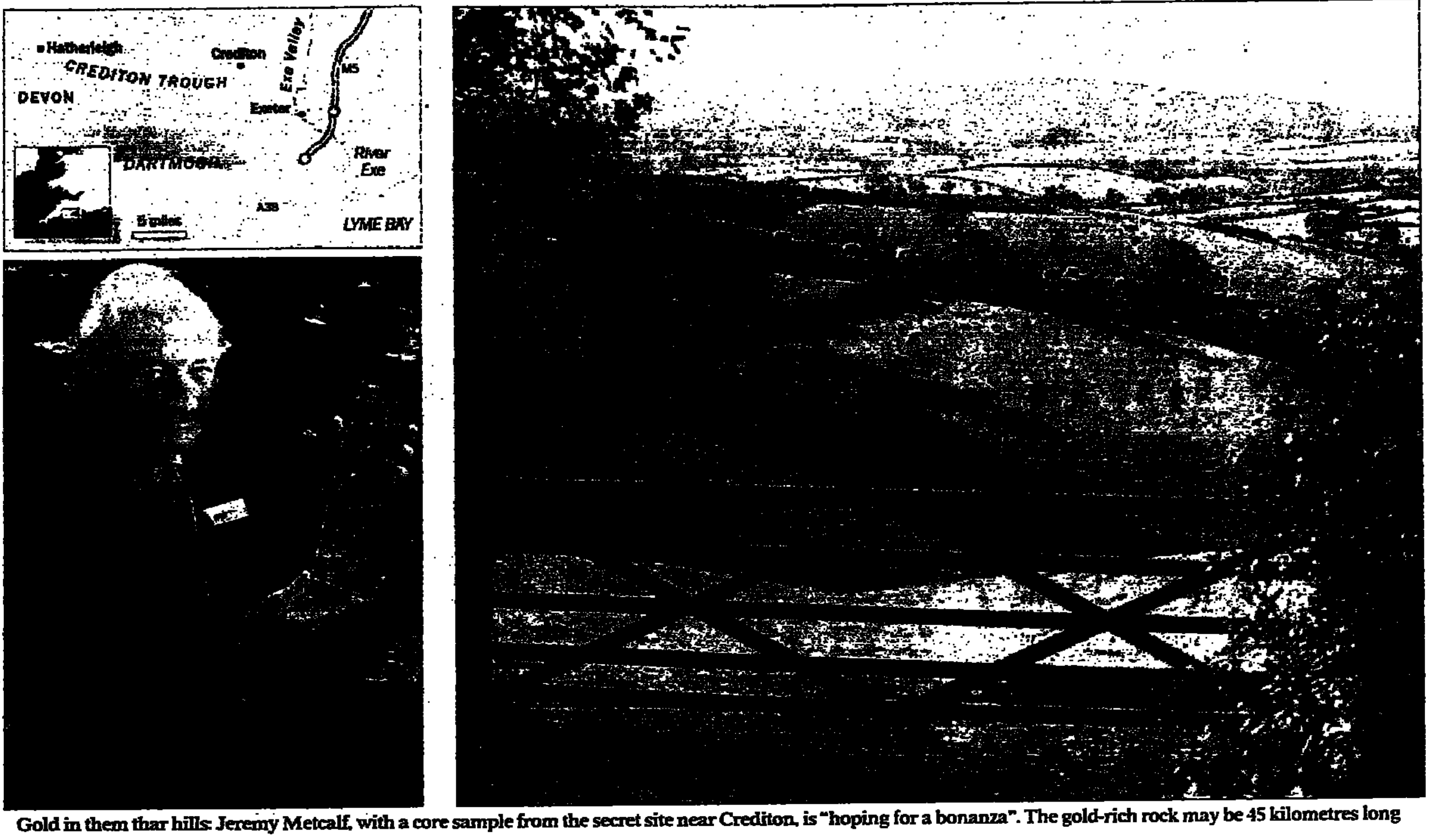
He added that he would be introducing enforceable standards, backed up by a scale of financial penalties, to ensure that train companies gave accurate information about services and ticket prices, as well as publishing accurate league tables.

The travel agency group AT Mays had stopped selling train tickets because the pricing structures were too complex. "It needs to be simpler," Mr Swift said. The survey was based on 3,705 inquiries at 933 staffed stations and 894 telephone inquiries.

☐ Hundreds of commuters were trapped inside Rochdale railway station in Greater Manchester for two hours on Monday because the doors had been left locked from the previous night. Then, after North Western Trains provided the wrong key and the fire service was called to force open the doors, an official arrived with the correct key.

Wild West Country strikes gold

GUY NEWMAN



Gold in them thar hills: Jeremy Metcalf, with a core sample from the secret site near Crediton, is "hoping for a bonanza". The gold-rich rock may be 45 kilometres long

But prospectors are told that tiny nuggets mean traditional panning methods won't wash, reports **Simon de Bruxelles**

PROSPECTORS heading for the Devon hills in search of gold were yesterday advised to pack a magnifying glass with the pick and shovel. What promises to be Britain's largest gold strike is expected to produce tiny nuggets.

The mining company whose find has made Devonshire a little more glorious revealed more details of the goldfield codenamed Watford Gap. Minmet struck pay dirt with its first bore at a secret location near the market town of Crediton, south Devon.

John Wilson, the project's operations director, said: "I am absolutely amazed. I have never seen a result like this in such a short space of time. The first hole we put in, it was there."

Minmet, an Irish-based company which has mining interests in Bolivia, Russia and Portugal, explored an area known as the Crediton Trough after surveys by the British Geological Survey. It negotiated exclusive rights with the Crown Commissioners and spent £200,000 drilling a test bore 800 metres deep. Traces of gold were found at 35 metres.

Jeremy Metcalf, the company's chairman, said yesterday: "It would be fair to say that we are very excited about this. We certainly would not be holding a press conference if we didn't believe that the project would yield considerable returns. There is gold there, the question is how much. But as chairman I am hoping for a bonanza."

But before a West Country gold rush starts, he gave a warning that the deposits, classified as free gold because they are not mixed with other minerals, are so small that they would never be found in the traditional manner.

He said: "Deposits found so far are pure but measure less than a millimetre. Any prospector would soon get frustrated." The band of gold-bearing rock is potentially eight kilometres wide and 45 kilometres long, stretching from the Exe Valley north of Exeter to Hatherleigh in west Devon. The precise location of the test bore is a closely guarded secret to protect landowners from freelance prospectors.

Richard Scrivener of the British Geological Survey told the press conference in Exeter: "To strike gold and get lucky like this is quite unique. This has to be taken seriously and we are greatly encouraged.

"As to the quality of the gold, the indications so far are that individual grains are relatively pure. We will carry out more drilling."

Dr Scrivener said that the deposits were found in a boundary layer between strata of volcanic rock. Geologists had yet to establish whether any more would be found and if so how much.

News of the discovery brings hope to miners in the South West at a time when Cornwall's last tin mine faces closure. Mr Metcalf said that the "vast pool" of miners in the region could prove invaluable.

But as the gold deposits were found relatively close to the surface, environmentalists fear the company may want to extract it by opencast or drift mining. This would mean fewer employees and could have serious environmental consequences.

In a region known for its environment campaigns and just months after tree-protesters campaigning against the A30 bypass were evicted, it is likely the company will encounter opposition. The company said it was too early to know how they would extract the gold. "We are not talking about panhandling, but not necessarily opencast," Mr Metcalf said. "There will always be the 'not in my backyard' lobby and we respect their views. But I cannot accept there will be a massive environmental impact."

Minmet has earmarked £200,000-£300,000 for further exploration. It is also prospecting for gold in Scotland and Northern Ireland. Mr Metcalf said that the company had private contracts with less than a dozen landowners in the Crediton Trough, who would earn royalties if gold was found on their land. Mr Metcalf said: "In this life, nobody does anything for free."

Gold has been found in the South West for centuries and exploration is also under way in Northern Ireland and Scotland. The biggest gold find in the South West was a nugget weighing 56 grammes from the Carnon Valley, near Truro. It is now in the Royal Cornwall Museum.

Music puts wine buyers under the influence

By Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

A JAUNTY accordion tune inspires supermarket shoppers to buy French wine, while bierkeller music has them reaching for German wine, psychologists at Leicester University have discovered.

Customers did not acknowledge that their choice was influenced by the music being played but the results show clearly that it was, says a team led by Adrian North. French wines normally outsold German ones, but the order was reversed when German tunes were played.

The team, from the university's Music Research Group, set up the experiment in the Asda store in Oadby, Leicestershire. Four French and four German wines, matched for price in the £3-£5 range, and for sweetness or dryness, were displayed in the drinks section. Their positions on the shelves were swopped half way through the two-week test.

A tape deck on the top shelf played either Parisian accordion music or bierkeller pieces on alternate days. A total of 82 shoppers bought wines from the display and were asked to respond to a questionnaire without being told the purpose of the experiment. Just over half did.

The results, report the team in *Nature*, show that musical "fit" has a profound effect on product choice. When French music was played, French wine outsold German in the ratio of 3.3 to one. When German music was played the positions were reversed and German wines outsold French by 2.75 to one.

The switch was so clear-cut that the odds against it arising by chance are a thousand to one. Yet only six of the respondents answered yes when asked whether the type of music playing had influenced their choice.

Previous work by other researchers has shown that classical music makes people spend more on a bottle of wine than does pop music.

Leading article, page 21

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Blair's link with Lib Dems will determine electoral reform

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

ELECTORAL reform for the Commons is the biggest uncertainty in Labour's constitutional plans. All autumn there has been sparring between Labour and the Liberal Democrats over the terms of reference of the promised commission on the issue. While nothing has been finally settled, the deadlock at last seems to have been broken. So the commission is very likely to be set up by the end of the month: probably, as expected, under the chairmanship of Lord Jenkins of Hillhead.

Behind the arcane arguments over electoral systems lie questions of party and personal advantage. A joint Labour and Lib Dem committee agreed before the election that a commission should report within a year of being set up on a proportional alternative to the first-past-the-post system. This choice would be put to voters in a referendum before the next election. Tony Blair is wary of a full-scale proportional system because it would threaten the current constituency link and would strengthen the position of third parties in what would probably be permanent coalitions.

Peter Mandelson and Peter Hain, the eager-beaver minister from the valleys, have been arguing the merits of the alternative vote (AV). This would preserve single-member constituencies but allow people to list candidates in order of preference. These preferences would be redistributed until someone gets a majority of the votes cast. The Lib Dems and Labour electoral reformers like Robin Cook have pointed out that AV is not a proportional system.

Paddy Ashdown is flexible on the balance of the final proposal, but firm that it must be based on the principle of proportionality. Hence, there could be a mixture of systems, as is suggested for the Scottish parliament. The terms of reference of the commission are likely to refer to producing a proposal that is "broadly proportional". This deliberate ambiguity could be favourably interpreted by both the supporters of AV and those wanting a more purely proportional system. AV would be on the agenda, as would the single transferable vote and the additional member system. It should be possible for the commission to produce a mixed solution.

The debate has been stirred by estimates of what would happen under AV. A few weeks ago, Democratic Audit published a report by Patrick Dunleavy, Helen Margetts and Stuart Weir based on ICM surveys of how people might have voted under alternative systems. This shows that the outcome would have been even less proportional under AV. Labour would have gained 436 seats, against the 419 it actually won on May 1. The Tories would have won just 110 seats, compared with 165, while the Lib Dem total would have risen from 46 to 84. Labour would have won between 300 and 340 seats under more proportional systems.

The constitutional reform group Charter 88 is this week bringing out an analysis hostile to AV. It points out on the basis of the British Election Study that not only is AV not proportional but in some cases it is less proportional than first-past-the-post. Moreover, "while AV would have benefited Labour in 1997, it would have penalised Labour at every other election in the 1980s and 1990s. This suggests that Labour strategists who champion AV for party advantage are playing a dangerous game."

The key is Mr Blair's attitude. At present, he is unsure about how close he wants to get to the Lib Dems. He likes Mr Ashdown and his close allies, but often regards local Lib Dems as too like old Labour for comfort. Does he want them as independent, but friendly, partners in multiparty politics or does he want to subsume them in an all-embracing new Labour hegemony? That strategic choice about relations with the Lib Dems will determine the choice of electoral systems.

PETER RIDDELL

Peers join forces to defend £35m Oxbridge subsidy

By James Landale, political reporter

THE Government faced sustained criticism from leading peers yesterday over its plans to review the special £35 million public subsidy granted to Oxford and Cambridge universities.

Peers from all sides of British academia said that any cuts would lead to the closure of colleges and would severely damage the universities as leading centres of educational excellence.

Each college receives an extra £2,000 per undergraduate to support the system under which Oxford and Cambridge are divided into semi-autonomous communities. This allows students and lecturers to live and work together, making it easier for undergradutates to receive individual attention.

Lord Beloff, a fellow of All Souls College, Oxford, who called the debate in the House of Lords, said the collegiate system was an "extraordinarily efficient" way of teaching that was less expensive than other leading universities around the world. "We seem to be able to do on less what Harvard, Yale or Princeton do so admirably for more," he said.

Lord Plant of Highfield, a Labour peer who is master of St Catherine's College, Oxford, said that Oxford's research excellence would be harmed by any funding cuts and its consequent threat to the collegiate system. He added that any cuts would make Oxford more exclusive. "This policy would be little short of destructive in terms of access. Any alternative to the existing system is going to make Oxford more socially exclusive."

In his maiden speech, **Lord Baker of Dorking**, a former Tory Education Secretary, said the funding cuts were being demanded by the Treasury, but if the money saved, worth only 0.35 per cent of the entire £10 billion education budget, were spread among Britain's 181 main educational establishments, they would each receive just £193,000. "It would be better to leave well alone. You do not improve the worst by hitting the best."

Lord Dahrendorf, the former warden of St Anthony's College, Oxford, admitted that Oxford and Cambridge's excellence was expensive. But he added: "I do not find it difficult to make the case for public support of excellence. A civilised country should be proud to have such institutions and to do everything to keep them going."

Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, the Chancellor of Oxford University and leader of the Liberal Democrat peers, said the collegiate system cost the Treasury only £19 million, which was a wholly justified national investment. "For God's sake, don't let the advent of this new Government be marred by inflicting grave damage on the two institutions which have given Britain a great part of its educational fame and respect around the world."

Baroness Blackstone, the Education Minister, insisted that the Government was committed to safeguarding the futures of Oxford and Cambridge. But she said peers should not forget they were not the only centres of academic excellence.

She said that the matter was being considered by the Higher Education Funding Council, and she would not make presumptions about its advice, which was due in the next few weeks. But she said that the Government should have "a proper concern about value for money" and that there was a proper balance to be struck. "Other universities achieve excellent ratings in teaching and research assessments. Some have small tutorial groups too without college fees."

TONY WHITE

Clare Short, International Development Secretary, celebrating the Commons' decision to use only Fairtrade coffee, which ensures a fair deal for Third World farmers

Rail chiefs set out plan to cut car dependence

By Arthur Leathley, transport correspondent

RAILWAY chiefs have told the Government they can help it to curb car use by doubling the number of passenger journeys made each year. They predict that they will attract ten million people who at present never travel by train.

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, has received a confidential document from Railtrack detailing a multi-billion-pound package of improvements intended to revolutionise train travel over the next 15 years. The company says that the scheme will help to cut congestion and pollution, aims that are central to the Government's plans to improve Britain's transport system.

The Railtrack scheme includes building new stations at airports, re-opening disused lines and creating an orbital London railway that will enable through trains to bypass the busiest stations.

However, the 22-page document, a copy of which has been obtained by *The Times*, warns ministers that plans to alter people's travel habits will not work unless the Government takes bold action to deter unnecessary motoring. Railtrack lists a range of actions that could be taken to deter motorists, including higher fuel taxes in place of the present road fund licence, road tolls to discourage motorists from driving into city centres and new taxes on public sector and company car-park spaces.

Railtrack says that its proposals to double the number of passenger journeys, from 30 billion to 60 billion a year, can be achieved in 15 years but could be done sooner if ministers allow the rail industry freedom to invest and do not impose tougher regulation. The company, which owns and maintains track and signalling throughout the country, makes clear that it and other rail companies can invest large amounts of money only if they feel that their investments are secure and that potential profits are not diminished by over-zealous regulation. The proposals include the building of stations at Luton, East Midlands and Heathrow airports and the developing of parkway stations at Hadley Wood, near the M25 in Hertfordshire, Doncaster, Peterborough and north Watford.

At present, only one in three people catches a train in any one year but Railtrack believes that it can increase that figure of 18 million to 28 million by improvements to enable faster and more reliable services. Most delays and cancellations have in the past been blamed on substandard tracks and signalling problems and operators see Railtrack as the crucial link in bringing about a rail service fit for the next century.

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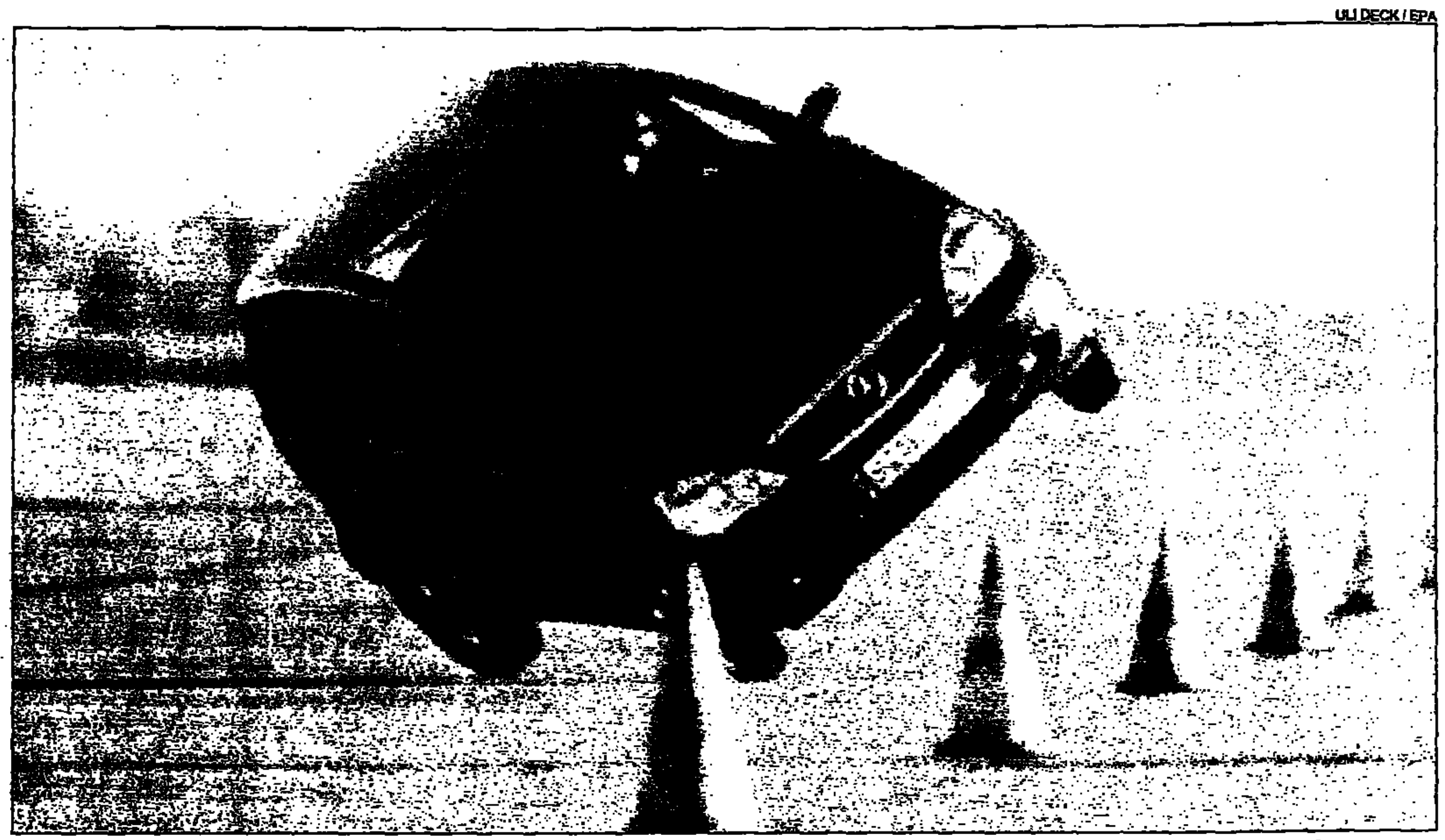
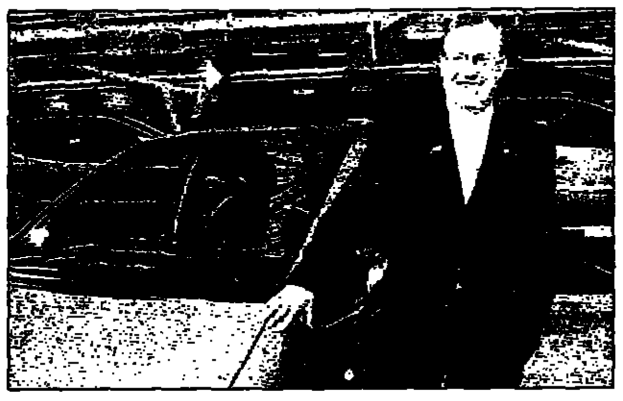
Costly Mercedes 'Baby' grows into PR disaster

Moose test puts elite carmaker in a spin, write **Kevin Eason** and **Roger Boyes**


ULI DECK / EPA

Jürgen Schrempp, below, Daimler-Benz chairman, at the opening of the production plant for the "Baby Benz", found wanting in safety tests



THE launch of what was billed as the most revolutionary small car since the Mini yesterday turned into a multimillion-pound public relations disaster for Mercedes-Benz.

The German manufacturer was forced to halt assembly lines producing its "Baby Benz" A-class model for a fundamental redesign to quell safety doubts after the car rolled over in tests.

Deliveries have been suspended for 12 weeks while extensive modifications are carried out and 3,000 cars delivered in Europe have been recalled for chassis and suspension alterations.

Mercedes executives admitted yesterday that the delays would cost more than £100 million. But Mercedes faces a higher price in lost credibility, after the enormous hype surrounding this radical addition to the range was exploded by a simple and well-known safety test carried out by a small Swedish magazine.

Mercedes spent £870 million and five years developing the A-class. Engineers put the car through more than three million miles of testing on five continents — yet it was found to be potentially dangerous within days of launch.

The so-called "moose-avoidance test" in Sweden simulates a dramatic swerve when drivers try to avoid a moose sprinting across an icy road. The test is largely restricted to Sweden but is well known throughout the motor industry, so it seems astonishing Mercedes should have overlooked it.

Robert Collin, a motoring magazine road tester, put the A-class through its moose-avoiding slalom, rolling it over at just 37.5mph, slightly injuring three passengers. He said yesterday the car's instability was obvious.

The results were devastating for Mercedes, which had already logged 40,000 inquiries for the £14,000 car in Britain alone. The A-class is due on sale here in June.

Mercedes's first response two weeks ago was to fit a sophisticated electronic stability programme — or ESP — whose sensors can read the rotational speed and forces through each wheel to apply brakes or kill engine speed to prevent dramatic swerves.

Yesterday, however, the company was forced to admit defeat and start again, a crushing blow to the pride of the world's oldest carmaker. Mercedes will now fit stabilisers on front and rear axles, lower the body and fit wider tyres; in other words, redesign the chassis system.

Jürgen Schrempp, chairman of Daimler-Benz, said: "That the A-class has shown a weakness in extreme test situations is something nobody regrets more than we do. Our engineers have devoted all their energy to the search for the optimal solution and we have found it."

The A-class was completely new, sharing only three minor components with other Mercedes models. The design was also radical, a short length but tall body style by Steve Mattin, a 30-year-old Briton who joined Mercedes ten years ago.

German hearts were warmed a little yesterday by the rumour that Volkswagen was considering putting in a bid for Rolls-Royce. Here at last was something positive in a disastrous week for the proud German motorist; a week when the withdrawal of the A-class car was compounded by the public humiliation of Michael Schumacher, the Formula One driver.

Advertisements placed in 180 newspapers yesterday tried to reassure customers. "We want to end the discussion on the safety of the A-class. Forever," the copy read. The unhappy Baby Benz has become an embarrassment not only to Daimler but to the whole German motor industry. In August at the Frankfurt Motor Show Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor — who somehow managed to squeeze into a Baby Benz for the photographers — held up the country's carmakers as proof that his cautious economic reforms were working.

☐ **Press failure:** Germany's motoring press came under fire yesterday for failing to detect the safety flaw in the Mercedes-Benz A-class car that was later discovered by Swedish journalists.

"Most of the German journalists were wearing rose-coloured spectacles when they tested this car," said Peter Schmidt, a journalist for *Automotive Industry Data* in London. "Journalists at magazines and newspapers are spoilt rotten by the car manufacturers and it is obvious why." *(Reuters)*

Embarrassed Italian authorities yesterday withdrew their newly minted 1,000 lira coin after it was pointed out that it depicts a pre-1990 map of Europe, which excludes the eastern half of a unified Germany (Richard Owen writes). The Italian Mint had issued 100,000 new coins in preparation for joining the single currency.

Economics take lead as 'French Commonwealth' switches focus

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE loose affiliation of 49 states and regions bound together by the French language, La Francophonie, will begin its seventh summit tomorrow in Vietnam, a country where fewer than 0.1 per cent of the people speak French.

If the Vietnamese hosts of the event find their French a little rusty 43 years after the country ceased to be a French colony, they will not be alone: among the other countries attending the summit are such unlikely francophone states as Romania, Bulgaria, Moldova and Egypt.

Poland and Albania are also preparing to sign up. Even Nigeria, after ordering that French must be taught in all schools, may soon be welcomed into the French version of the Commonwealth, having been suspended from the British one.

La Francophonie was founded in 1986 by President Mitterrand to defend French culture and language, but the French-speakers' club, its rules of admittance, aims and aspirations have all changed markedly in recent years.

The group describes itself simply as "the community of countries which have the French language in common", but increasingly the accent of the association is on economic and political links, rather than on culture and language.

That shift, and France's increasing ambitions for the organisation, will come into focus this week when Boutros Boutros Ghali, the former Secretary-General of the United Nations and a long-time ally of France, is expected to become the group's first Secretary-General and the diplomatic face of La Francophonie, with his own staff and headquarters in Paris.

The election of Dr Boutros Ghali, ousted from his UN post by the US, will send a message to the Washington that needs no translating.

Lapland gene boosts virility

Stockholm: The Sami men of Lapland owe their great virility not to their much-vaunted powdered reindeer horn but to a genetic mutation, according to a physiological study published yesterday.

Researchers at Finland's Abo University have discovered a genetic mutation especially common in Sami men that speeds up production of testosterone, the male sex hormone, which can boost sexual energy.

The study found 40 per cent of Sami men had the gene mutation compared with 20 per cent of men in Sweden and 15 per cent in men from southern Europe. *(Reuters)*

Bombers in Argentina target British envoy

BY GABRIELLA GAMINI, SOUTH AMERICA CORRESPONDENT

POLICE detonated two explosive devices found outside a hotel where William Marsden, the British Ambassador to Argentina, was a guest in the northwestern city of Córdoba. Two grenades at an English-language school were also deactivated.

The Argentine Foreign Ministry issued a statement condemning Tuesday's acts, saying that it would reinforce security for British diplomats. Right-wing groups made up of former military officers and Falklands campaign veterans — who oppose the efforts of President Menem's Government to improve relations with Britain — are believed responsible.

José Casnelleda, Córdoba's chief of police, said: "The bombs placed outside the hotel and the two grenades thrown at the English school were military regulation weapons."

Staff at the César Park Hotel said that they had received several threatening calls for having the British Ambassador as a guest. Hours later the bombs had been thrown from a passing car at the hotel entrance.

President Menem has been invited to visit Britain next year.

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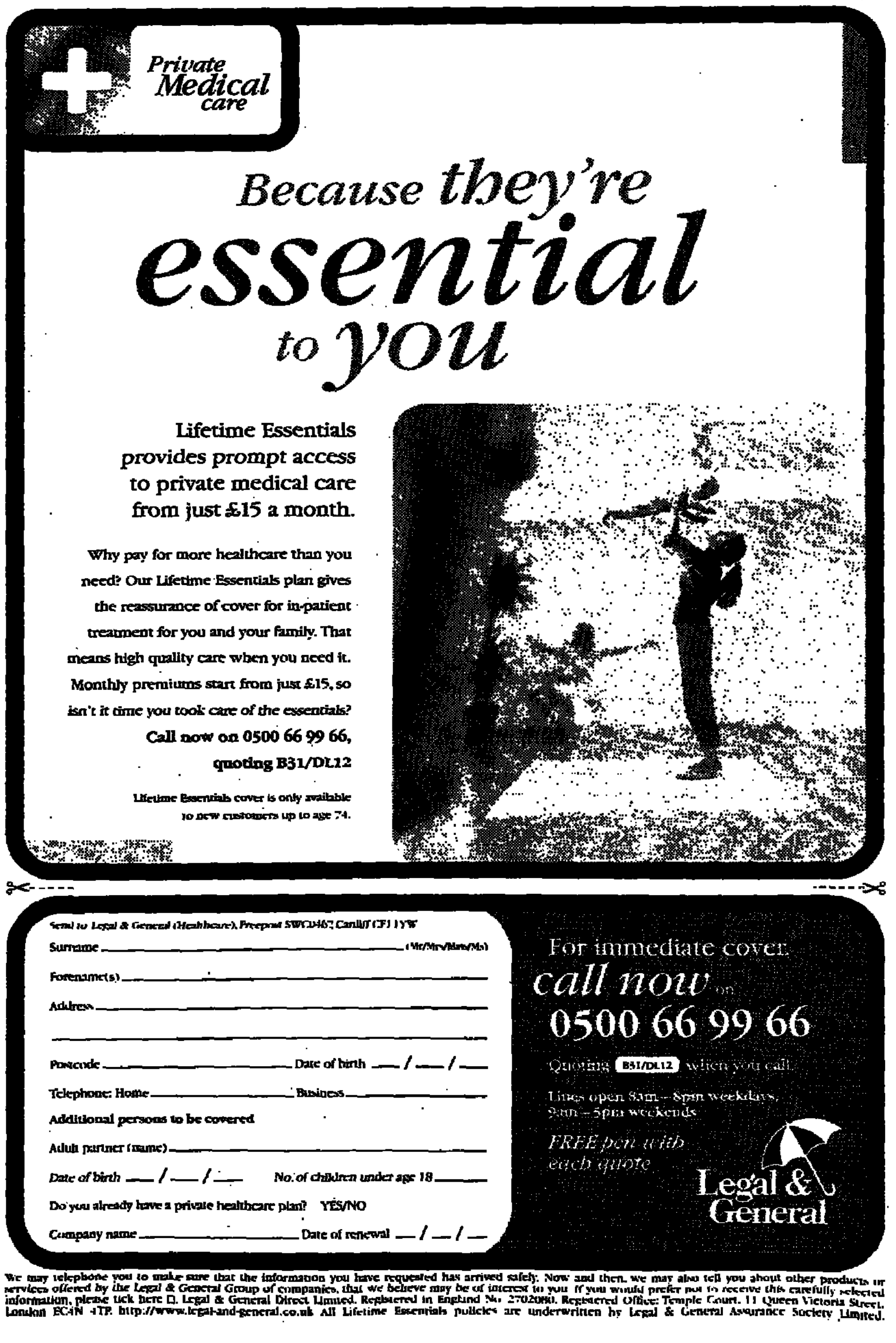

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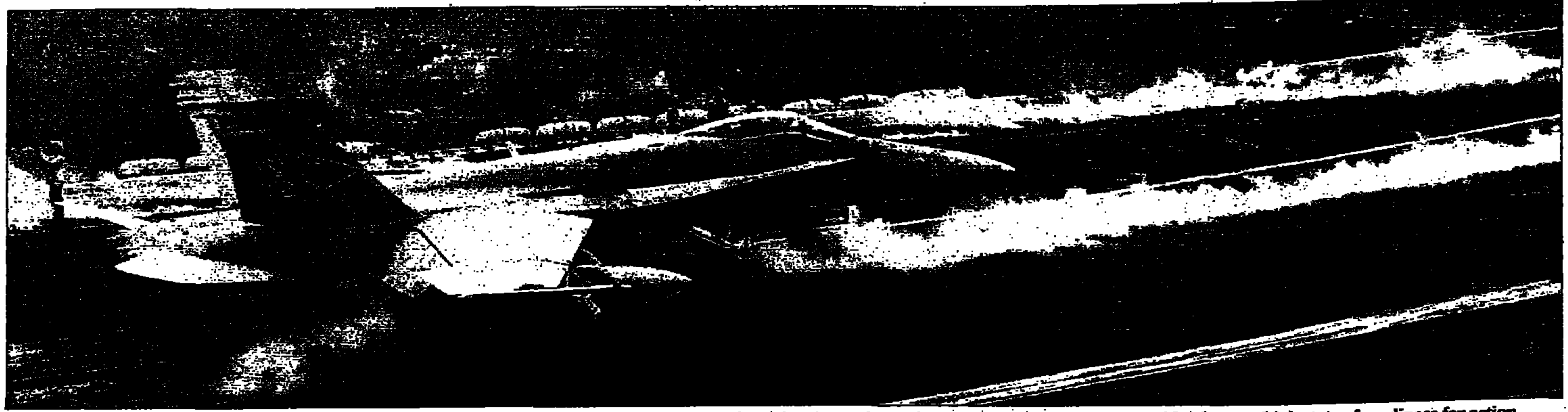
هكذا من الاصل

UN travel ban adds to pressure on Iraq

FROM JAMES BONE
IN NEW YORK AND
MICHAEL THEODOULOU
IN NICOSIA

STEPHANIE McGEHEE / REUTERS



An American F/A18 fighter preparing for take-off from the deck of the *USS Nimitz* aircraft carrier to patrol a no-fly zone over Iraq. The ship is said to be on a high state of readiness for action

THE United Nations Security Council agreed yesterday to a symbolic tightening of sanctions on Iraq by imposing a travel ban on Iraqi officials who seldom leave the country.

The resolution. approved unanimously by all 15 members of the council. condemned Baghdad's decision to bar Americans from acting as UN weapons inspectors and gave a warning of "further measures" if its policy was not reversed. but stopped short of making any clear threat of military action.

Iraq responded by declaring that it would expel US arms inspectors in retaliation. President Saddam Hussein was due to chair a meeting of the ruling Revolutionary Command Council this morning to decide when the six Americans still in Iraq would be expelled, a move bound to intensify the confrontation.

The unanimous vote was hailed by British and American diplomats as a signal of renewed unity in the Security Council after months of division over its handling of Iraq.

"The old coalition is back," said Bill Richardson, the US Ambassador at the UN. "There is unanimity in a very strong sense that the international community is not going to tolerate continued actions by the Iraqis."

The resolution did mark a limited diplomatic victory for the two Gulf War allies because it tightened sanctions, albeit modestly, when other Security Council members had begun to seek a relaxation of the embargo placed on Iraq after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

But Britain and the US, facing strong opposition to military action within the council, failed to incorporate a threat of "serious consequences" — even though a council statement had used those words two weeks ago.

The two countries sought a travel ban on particular individuals because of growing concern in the Security Council about the effect of UN sanctions on the Iraqi people. The ban will affect Iraqi officials and military officers responsible for blocking UN inspectors. Iraqi envoys on "bona fide assignments" will be exempt, but the travel sanctions might be interpreted to cover parliamentarians who voted to obstruct UN inspections.

In the renewal of rhetoric by Baghdad, Muhammad al-Sahaf, the Foreign Minister, extended a threat to shoot down U2 spy planes to include American warplanes enforcing no-fly zones over northern and southern Iraq, claiming that the number of overflights had recently increased.

"Whenever we see fit to shoot them, we will shoot them," he said.

Iraqi opposition groups welcomed the travel ban, but said that, apart from increasing the regime's sense of isolation, its impact would be largely symbolic. "These guys don't travel much and if they need to, they can easily get false passports," said a spokesman for the Iraqi National Congress.

Diplomats saw three main factors encouraging Saddam to maintain his challenge to the UN. He believes he has little to lose because the US has made clear that even if he complies with the disarmament programme, it will do its utmost to maintain sanctions while he is in power, they said. Second, American military action could jeopardise the very thing that the US is trying to preserve: the continued monitoring of Saddam's weapons programmes. "The UN would want to withdraw all its inspectors before air or missile strikes," an Arab diplomat said.

Saddam would also be emboldened by Washington's obvious difficulty in mustering support among its allies for tough action.

Leading article, page 21

Pentagon rules out military strikes on Saddam's palaces

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Pentagon has a long list of potential Iraqi targets for military strikes should it be decided to use force against President Saddam Hussein over the obstruction of American United Nations weapons inspectors.

However, token attacks on air-defence radar installations or command and control facilities are unlikely to cause the Iraqi leader lost sleep in whichever of his many presidential palaces he is residing.

Military action will be seen as a last resort that will need to demonstrate to Saddam the international community's ability — American in this case — to strike where it really hurts.

Over six-and-a-half years, the UN arms inspectors have been blocked from entering up to 100 sites, according to one UN official. They include key buildings where "special" Republican Guards units are suspected of concealing incriminating documents, weapons parts and biological warfare agents.

However, these buildings are usually contained inside the perimeter of a presidential palace, which the Iraqis will not let inspectors enter for national security reasons.

Presidential palaces are unlikely to be on the Pentagon target list because American intelligence services cannot be sure which might be concealing crucial elements of Saddam's secret programme to develop weapons of mass destruction. There would also be a risk of civilian casualties.

Photographs by American satellites and U2 spy planes have revealed that Saddam has rebuilt many of his military assembly lines, damaged during the Gulf War. They include one missile plant which could be targeted by Tomahawk cruise missiles or laser-guided bombs.

However, UN officials pointed out that Iraq was allowed to continue building missiles with a range of no more than about 90 miles. There is no sign of a Scud intermediate-range missile facility being rebuilt.

The main concern now is focused on chemical and biological research. In June last year, the UN inspectors destroyed a biological weapons plant producing anthrax and botulism at Hakam.

If a similar factory could be identified by satellite or U2, and UN inspectors are prevented from entering, this might be a more appropriate target for a military strike than a radar facility that can be rebuilt in a few weeks.

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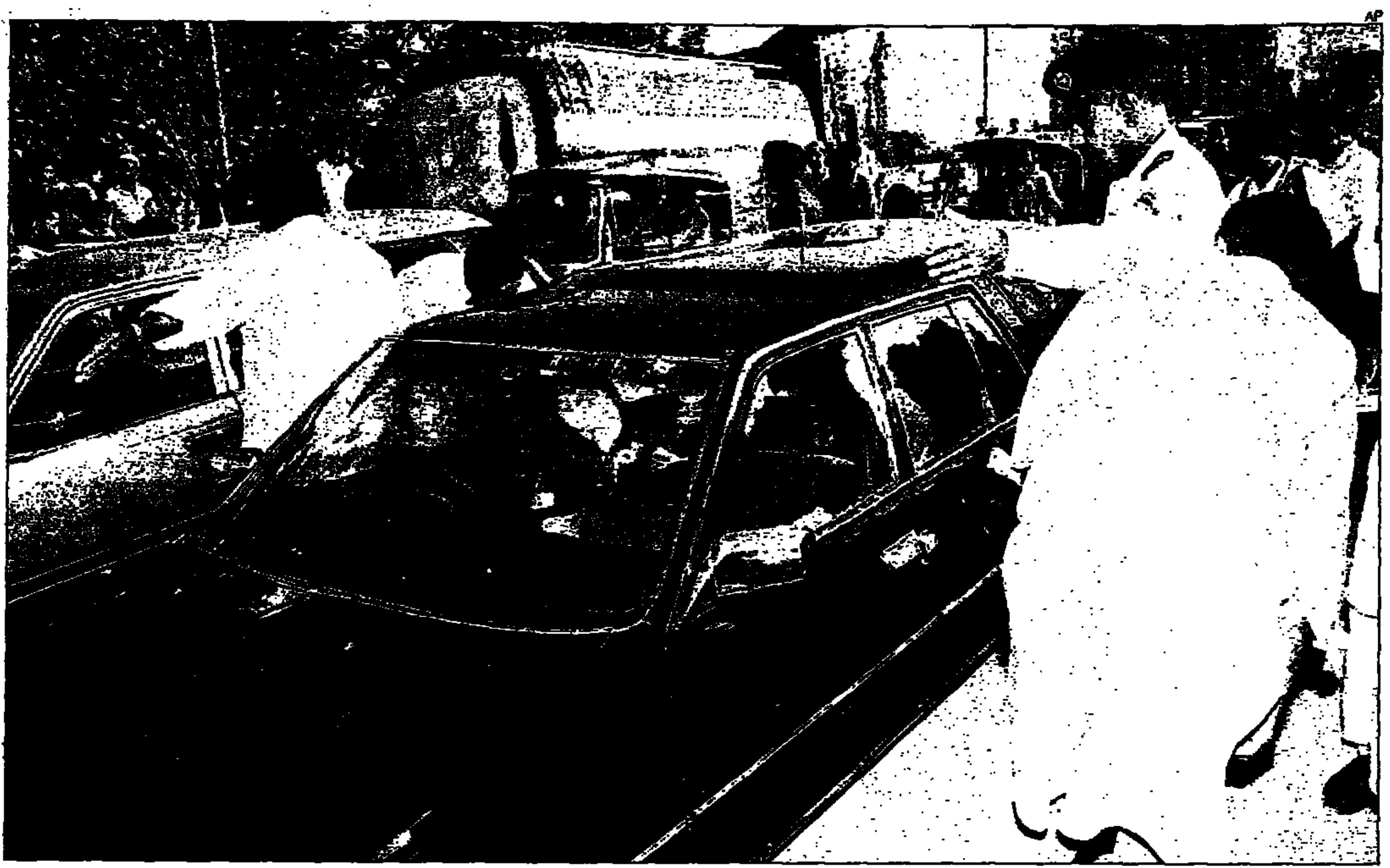
Americans shot dead after guilty verdict on Pakistani

By Christopher Thomas, South Asia Correspondent, and Ian Brodie in Washington


AP

The car, with the bodies of its Pakistani driver and four American passengers, after the shooting on a crowded Karachi street yesterday

FOUR Americans and a Pakistani were shot dead yesterday, probably by Islamic extremists, in a reprisal attack in the centre of Karachi — a violent port city with a sinister political and religious underworld. The Pakistani Government has ordered an inquiry, but there is little chance of catching the killers.

The Americans — foreigners are always at risk of unprovoked attacks in Pakistan's most lawless city — were singled out as the car in which they were travelling passed over a bridge in heavy morning traffic. The gunmen used Kalashnikovs, which are freely available at knockdown prices throughout the country, and escaped in the confusion.

The murders were probably designed to avenge the guilty verdict passed by an American court on Mir Aimal Kasi, a Pakistani national accused of killing two CIA employees outside the agency's headquarters in Langley, near Washington, more than four years ago. He could face the death penalty for the murders, caused when he sprayed bullets from an assault rifle into rush-hour traffic waiting to turn into the agency's headquarters. The action made him a hero among many Islamic zealots in Pakistan.

The Karachi shootings came as legal-aid lawyers in America were pleading with a jury to spare Kasi's life and sentence him instead to life in prison without parole. The defence produced family members, teachers, friends and former employers to show that Kasi had lived a quiet, non-violent life before the killings, but had been subject to seizures in childhood and suffered brain damage that altered his personality.

When he was captured in Pakistan in June, Kasi told the FBI that he shot the CIA employees to protest at American policies towards Muslims in the Middle East, including the bombing of Iraq during the Gulf War.

For Kasi to receive the death penalty under Virginia law, the prosecution must convince the six men and six women on the jury that he still poses a danger to society or that his crime was particularly "vile, meaning he used more force than necessary to kill and that his motive involved mental depravity beyond even first-degree murder".

The prosecution said the "vile" standard did apply. They recounted how Kasi shot Frank Darling, a CIA analyst, first in the back and then returned to shoot him in the head at close range. His wife, Judy, watched helplessly in the passenger seat beside him.

All five victims of yesterday's Karachi attack were employees of Union Texas, the US oil company. They were on their way to work, a journey of only a few minutes, and died instantly. The Americans were auditors who had only just arrived in Pakistan.

The attack was similar to the killing of two American government employees in Karachi in 1995, also targeted as they drove to work. No one has been arrested for those killings, probably a reprisal for the deportation to America of Ramzi Yousef, accused of masterminding the bombing of the New York World Trade Centre.

A witness said that the killers had on khaki jackets and the traditional baggy shirts and trousers worn by most Pakistanis. They stepped out of their vehicle, sprayed bullets into the victims at point-blank range, checked the bodies closely to ensure they were dead, and then drove off. The stolen vehicle was abandoned in the city.

The US State Department gave a warning on Tuesday that Americans could be targets after the verdict. Mike McCurry, President Clinton's spokesman, said there was no immediate direct evidence to link the latest murders with the Kasi conviction, but officials were watching for any connection that developed.

Condemning the attack as barbarous and outrageous, Mr McCurry said it would not affect Mr Clinton's visit to Pakistan next year, or that of Madeleine Albright, the Secretary of State, due soon.

Cheque 'proves Clinton lied on oath'

From Ian Brodie in Washington

A MYSTERIOUS cheque proves that President Clinton is a liar, according to a convicted Whitewater criminal yesterday.

A lawyer for the President ridiculed the allegation by Jim McDougal, a former partner of Mr Clinton and his wife, Hillary, in their failed Whitewater land speculation.

McDougal, who is serving three years in jail on 18 charges, accused Mr Clinton in a telephone call to the Associated Press, an American news agency. His denunciation was provoked by the discovery last week of thousands of long-missing documents in the boot of a car that had been abandoned ten years ago in a Little Rock garage.

The documents related to McDougal's bankrupt Madison Guaranty Savings and Loan Association. One of them appeared to be a cheque made out to Mr Clinton in 1982 for $27,600. McDougal claimed this was a loan to Mr Clinton, but Mr Clinton has testified under oath that he never obtained such a loan.

On Tuesday, the President and Vice-President Al Gore were interviewed by officials investigating election campaign fundraising, the White House said yesterday.

Blacks force Christie's to drop slavery posters from US sale

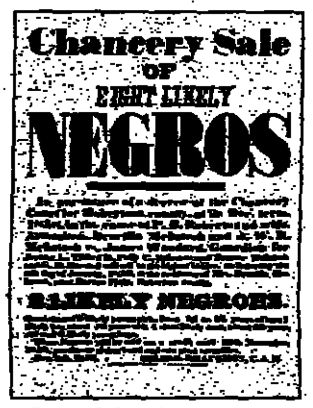
From James Bone in New York

AMBUSHED by irate listeners to a popular black radio talk-show, Christie's, New York, has had to withdraw from auction three lots of American Civil War posters advertising "likely negroes" for sale and offering rewards for runaway slaves.

The items, expected to fetch $700 to $1,000 (£400 to £590) a lot at last night's sale, included a "wanted" poster announcing a reward for "A Negro Man John" with a "remarkable fine set of teeth" and a receipt for the purchase of "a mulatto boy named Joe".

Another poster advertised a "Chancery Sale of 8 Likely Negroes, Consisting of 3 likely girls, from 12 to 14 years of age; 1 likely boy about 16 years old; 1 stout likely man, about 25 years old; and 3 likely young boys".

Dozens of outraged listeners telephoned Christie's to complain after a commentary about the sale was broadcast on the Dallas-based *Tom Joyner Show*.


Chancery Sale OF EIGHT LIKELY NEGROS

LIKELY NEGROES.

One of the slave posters removed from auction

The talk-show is syndicated nationally and has a total audience of about three million, but it is not heard in New York and Christie's staff did not know what had hit them. The unidentified seller immediately withdrew the three lots from the auction and promised to give them to a museum devoted to "African-American history".

David Paterson, a local state senator who helped to launch the campaign after receiving complaints from black artists in New York, criticised Christie's for "arrogance" and said that he wanted a comprehensive ban on the sale of slavery memorabilia. Tavis Smiley, the black television presenter who gave the commentary on the *Tom Joyner Show*, contrasted Christie's willingness to sell such items with its reluctance to auction paraphernalia relating to the Holocaust.

Christie's denied there was any double standard. "What we do not sell is property that glorifies any era," Vredy Lytsman, for the firm, said. "We would not sell anything that glorifies Nazism or that glorifies slavery. These three lots were part of a collection of documents on the American Civil War. That war was fought to abolish slavery."

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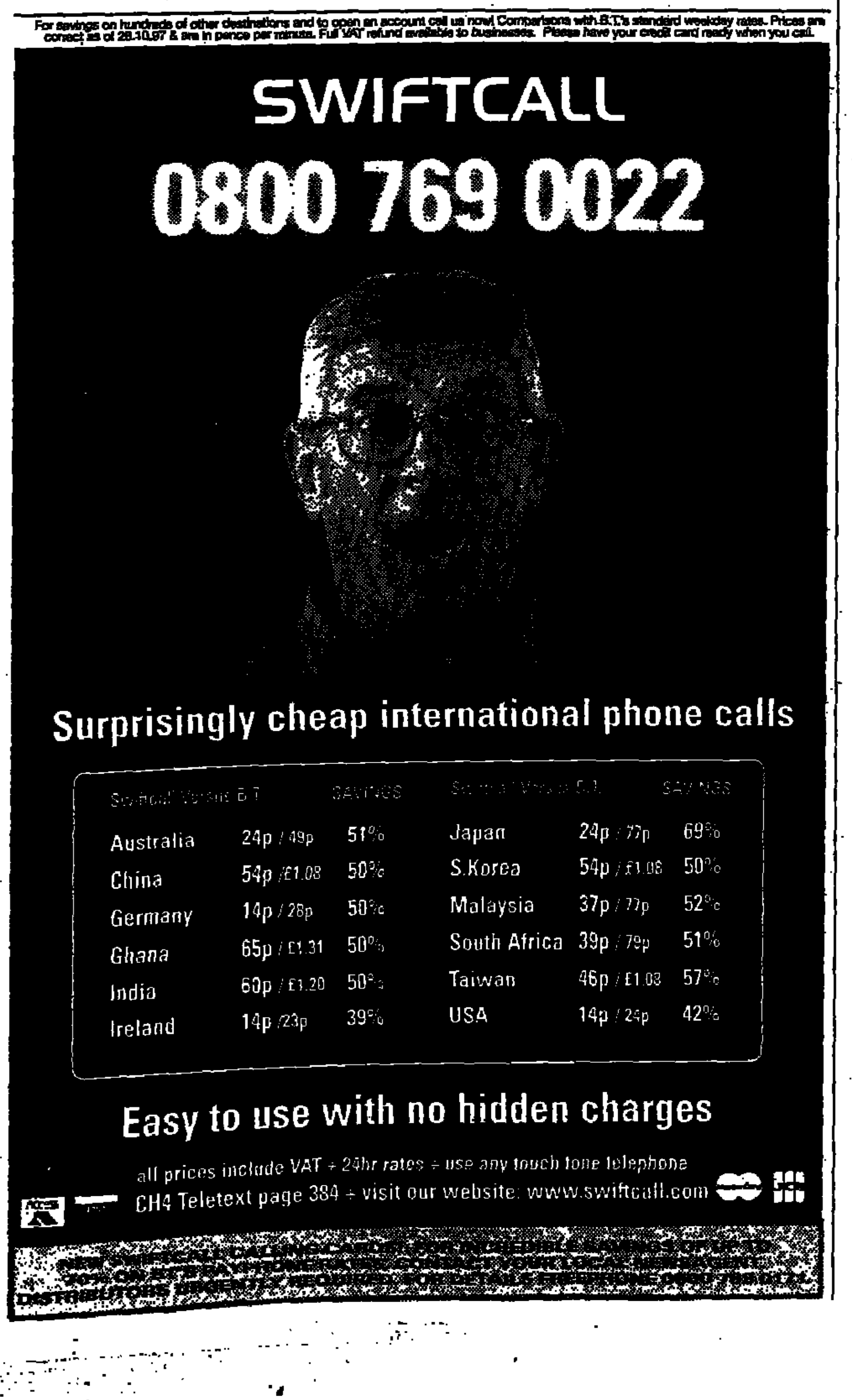
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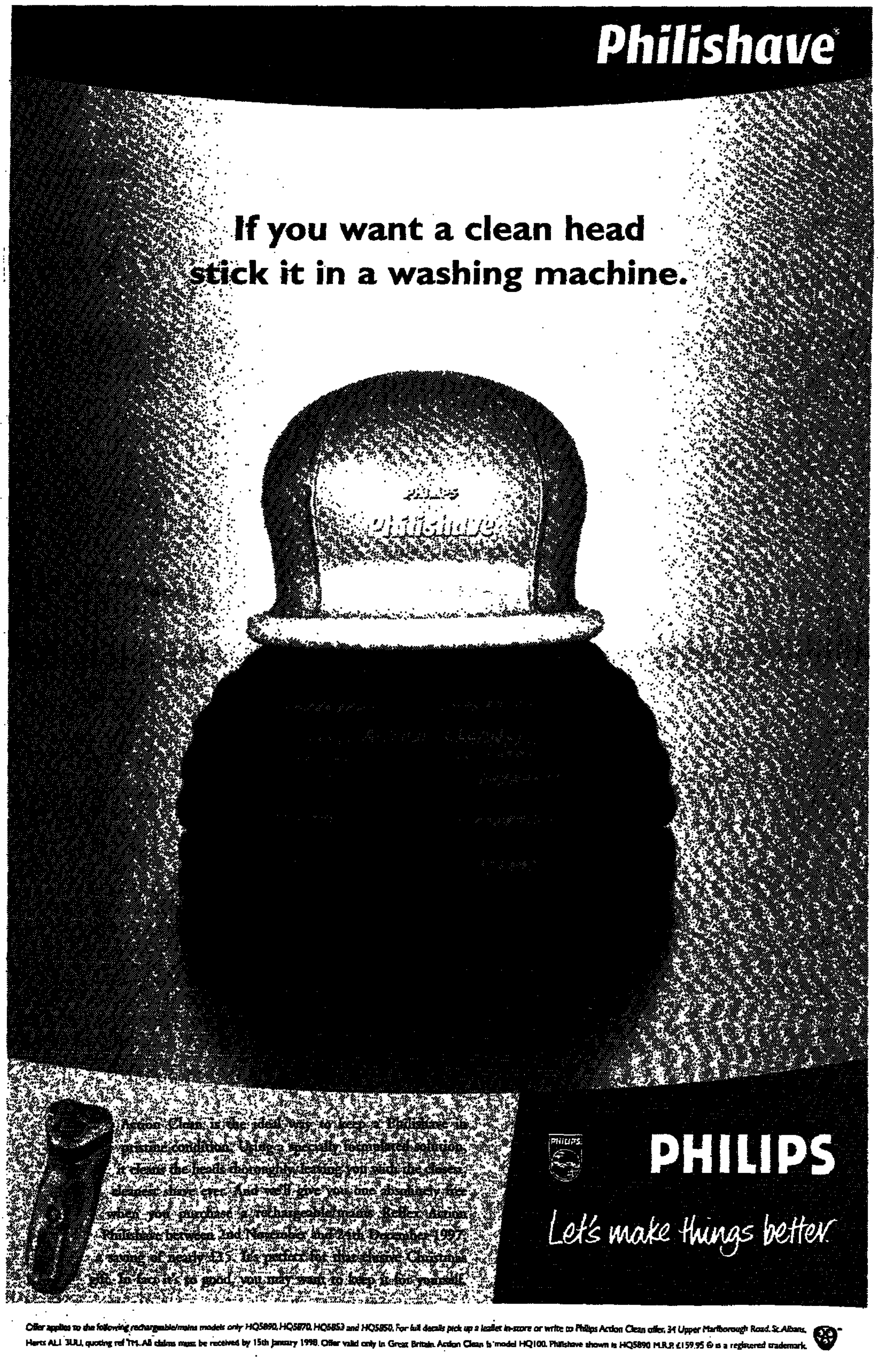
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MEP exposed in travel scam on jet to nowhere

Investigation of expenses fraud is embarrassing the EU, report **Roger Boyes** and **Charles Bremner**

MEMBERS of the European Parliament are enriching themselves with padded expenses, according to an investigation by German television which sent a camera team on the trail of politicians.

Stern Television's disclosures will not astonish observers of the Strasbourg assembly, who have long believed the 626 MEPs maximise their income from the £35 million annual budget for travel and subsistence. But the report comes at an embarrassing moment, barely a fortnight after tougher monitoring was supposed to have come in force. The main target of the accusations are MEPs from Mediterranean states but those from all countries are implicated in some form of fraud.

The camera team followed Nelio Mendonca, a Portuguese deputy, walking in Brussels during the same weekend that he claimed to be at home in Madeira. He had claimed £1,600 for the air fare. Stern presented the information to José Maria Gil Robles, president of the European Parliament, who has taken no disciplinary action.

Senhor Mendonca said he had not flown home as he was taken ill "at the last moment" and had repaid the expenses.

Claudia Roth, European deputy for the Greens, said: "There are colleagues with apartments in Brussels. In many cases they do not fly home to Portugal and elsewhere and do not return on Monday. They simply claim expenses for phantom trips."

Until November 1, European deputies were able to claim travel expenses for committee meetings in Strasbourg or Brussels without presenting documentary proof. Senhor Mendonca could have genuinely travelled home on a cheap fare of £500 and still made a handsome profit. "The system simply invites fraud," Frau Roth says.

Under the new rules, deputies will have to present boarding passes or a copy of train tickets. If they say they travelled by car, however, they merely have to make a personal statement to that effect.

Frau Roth says she knows of a Greek colleague who flies on a cheap fare from Brussels to Athens for £137 and claims car mileage of more than £1,620 (based on a rate of 50p a kilometre for the first 400km, and 25p for every subsequent km). The Lisbon-Brussels route is even more profitable.

The travel scam has bred its own strange culture. North Italian deputies have bought houses in Sicily on the basis of car mileage refunds from Strasbourg. Nor are German deputies exempt. All German deputies travel free on German as well as Belgian railways. If they travel to their constituencies by train, and say they drive by car, they make useful pocket money.

Travel expenses are only part of the honey pot. General expenses for a German deputy amount to £2,200 a month and are supposed to cover, for example, all telephone calls made outside their offices. This sum does not have to be accounted for.

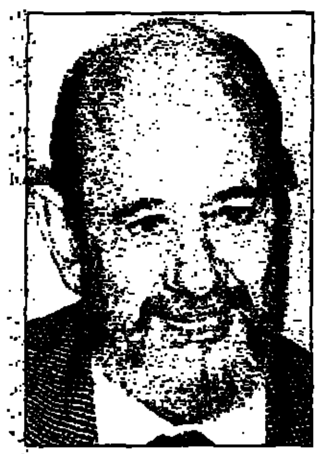
The secretarial and staff allowance amounts to £6,420 a month. "This is a murky chapter," says Frau Roth. "Some people are employing half their families."

The most simple fiddle remains the attendance allowance of about £150 a day for hotel costs. Deputies often sleep in their offices and pocket the money. Many insist on keeping the Friday morning plenary session — which frequently lasts no more than an hour — in order to get the attendance fee for that day. The ITV documentary *The Big Story* filmed MEPs signing the Friday register and leaving immediately for the airport.

Few MEPs will discuss their personal claims, but some members are believed to milk up to £200,000 a year out of the system.

David Martin, a Labour MEP who is chairing a committee that is drawing up reforms on pay and allowances, said yesterday that only "5 or 10 per cent" were misusing the system.

Parliament leaders say it cannot be fully reformed until the EU gives deputies equal pay. At present they are paid by their home parliaments at the rate for domestic MPs.


Gil Robles: given data on TV investigation

WHAT AN MEP EARNS

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Belgium	£3,527
Irish Republic	£2,696
Luxembourg	£2,674
Denmark	£2,661
Finland	(up to) £2,409
Sweden	£2,363
Portugal	£1,985
Spain	£1,820
Greece	£1,752

☐ *Source: German Bundestag statistics*

MASSIMO LOCCI / EPA

Silvia Melis, 28, hugs her five-year-old son, Luca, yesterday, nine months after she was abducted from her car and held for a $1 million ransom

Kidnap mother's long ordeal ends

From Richard Owen
in Rome

A WOMAN kidnapped by Sardinian bandits nine months ago was yesterday tearfully reunited with her small son after making a dramatic escape from her captors. But Italian newspapers cast doubt on her version of events, speculating that her family may have paid a ransom despite official denials.

However, a second kidnapping case had a tragic ending when Donato Cefola, 16, abducted earlier this week in Potenza, southern Italy, was found dead in a ditch in a village three miles from his home. In an unusual twist, the kidnappers, two men and two women, gave themselves up to police, saying a gun had gone off by mistake. Cefola disappeared while on his way to school, and the kidnappers left a ransom note on the windscreen of his father's car.

Silvia Melis, 28, was snatched on February 19 by hooded members of the feared "Anonima Sequestri" gang while parking her car outside her house at Tortoli, on Sardinia's east coast. Her son, Luca, was left sleeping in the back. Although kidnappings are common in Sardinia, the case became a *cause célèbre* in the media, and police mobilised hundreds of officers to comb the area. Yesterday Signora Melis wept as she embraced Luca, who told her: "Mamma, I am five now." Signora Melis said: "It was my religious faith and my love for my son which saved me." She described being moved six times during her ordeal because the kidnappers were aware of the intensive police hunt and public outrage.

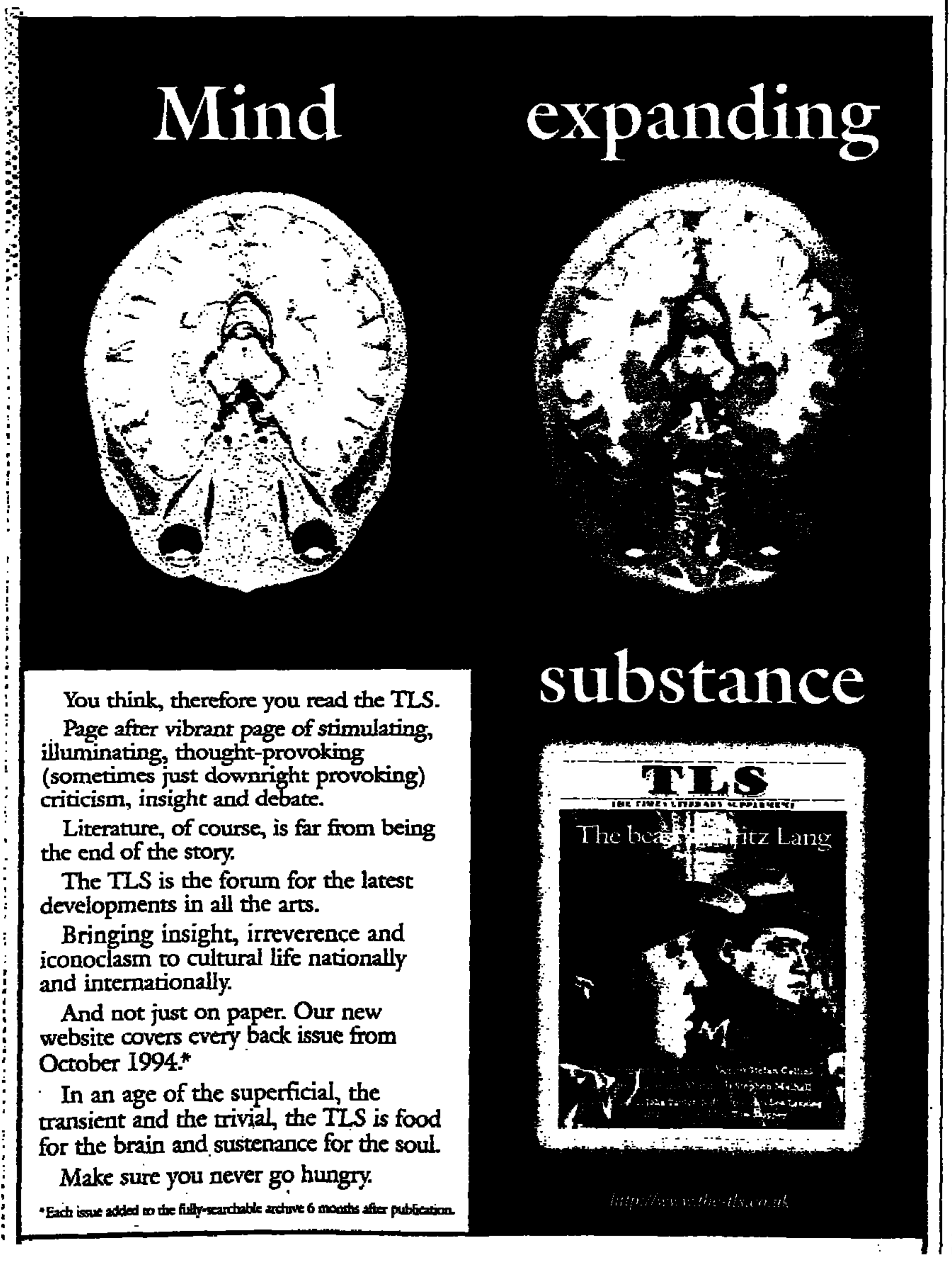
"They treated me well enough, but I was always a prisoner," she said. "It was a nightmare." Asked to describe her kidnappers, she replied: "They were people like me, they were not animals — but they committed a bestial crime."

Signora Melis said that in an unguarded moment she had been left on her own and she had made a run for it. She found herself on a country road in the mountains near the town of Nuoro and stopped a police patrol car with the words: "I am Silvia Melis, please take me to my son." In Nuoro, which nestles beneath the spectacular peak of Mount Ortobene in central Sardinia, thousands poured into the streets cheering as the news of Signora Melis's release spread. She later appeared on the town hall's balcony, receiving an ecstatic welcome.

Her father, a wealthy engineer, denied that he or any other member of the family had paid the $1 million (£588,000) ransom demanded by the kidnappers to secure her release. Under Italian law, the bank accounts of kidnap victims and their relatives are frozen, a move designed to discourage the payment of ransoms and so persuade bandits that kidnapping is fruitless. But ransoms are still handed over and, during the Melis case, there have been repeated demands for the law to be changed so families can end their torment by paying up if they wish.

Last month police bungled an attempt to confront the kidnappers of Giuseppe Soffantini, a leading textile manufacturer. An officer was killed in a shootout when the kidnappers realised the "ransom handover" was a trap. The victim has not been found.

> ‘It was a nightmare. They were people like me, they were not animals — but they committed a bestial crime’



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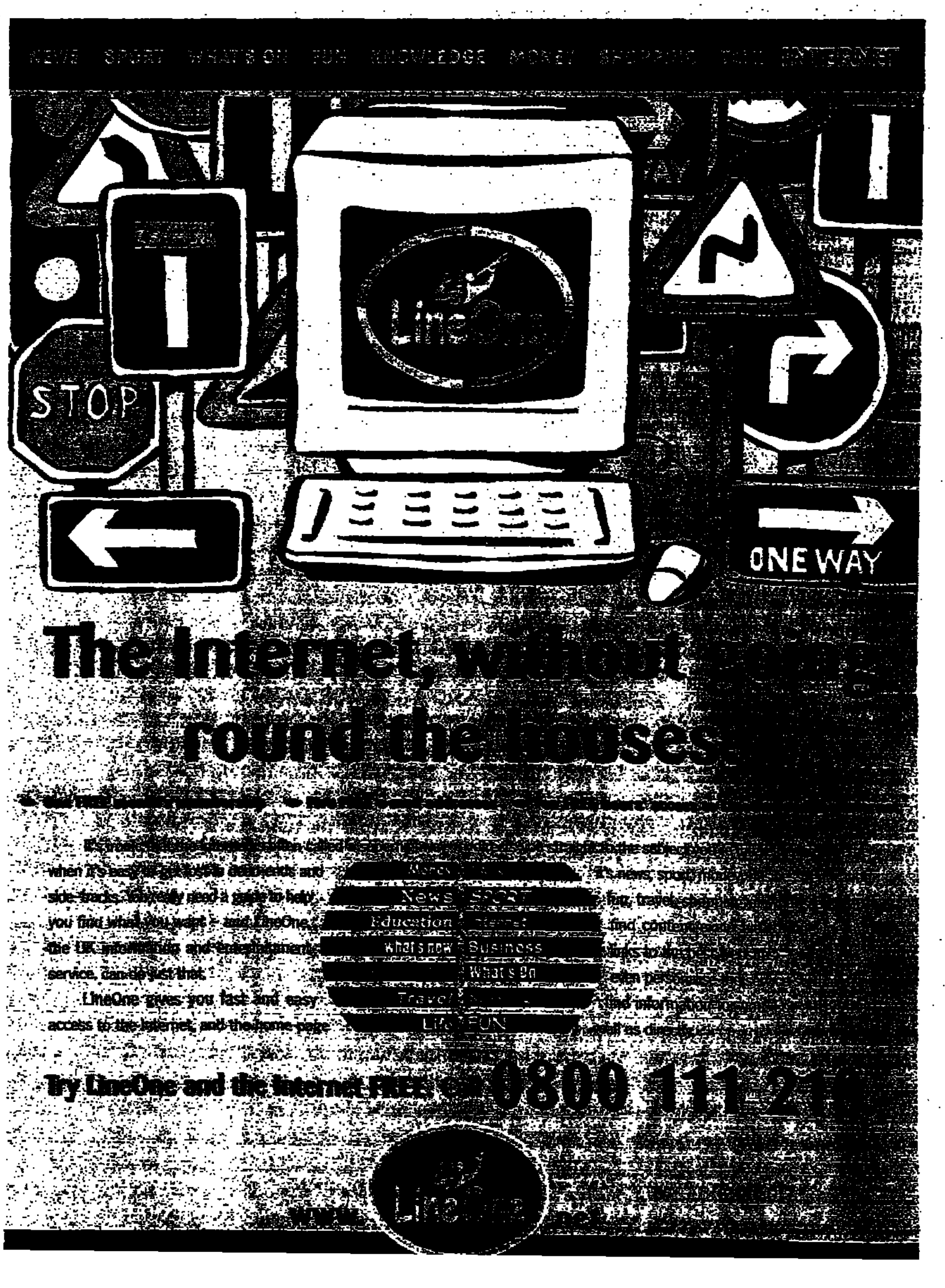

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Battle
for succ
to ailing

Death-bed plea
Palestine partiti

THE SU

Battle begins for succession to ailing Arafat

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

YASSIR ARAFAT, the veteran Palestinian leader, has an unnamed degenerative disease and the manoeuvres in what could be a bloody struggle to succeed him have begun, according to well-placed Western and Middle Eastern sources.

Doctors and diplomats who have seen the 68-year-old former guerrilla leader in recent weeks have noticed a trembling of his hands, legs and bottom lip — identified as possible early signs of Parkinson's disease, which eventually would incapacitate him.

It was confirmed yesterday that, despite attempts by aides to cover up his health problems and blame them on Israeli propaganda, Mr Arafat has collapsed twice recently. The first time was during an Arab foreign ministers' meeting in Cairo in late September. An official present said that his lips turned blue and his eyes rolled before a doctor revived him.

The second occasion was late last month when Mr Arafat, who is leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation and the Palestinian Authority, which administers part of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, collapsed in the West Bank city of Ramallah and had to be taken to hospital.

Although Mr Arafat has informed close aides recently that he does not believe he will reach his 70th birthday, he has done nothing about arranging a successor. Palestinian officials claim that his health has been affected by his plane crash in 1992 in the Libyan desert, which necessitated surgery to remove blood clots from his brain. Doctors said privately at the time that he would have problems with his central nervous system.

Quoting sources in Mr Arafat's Fatah faction of the PLO, the respected Arabic paper *Al-Hayat* reported this week that Colonel Jibril Rajoub, 44, head of Mr Arafat's preventive security apparatus in the West Bank, planned to assume control of Palestinian Authority areas if Mr Arafat died or became incapacitated.

The paper claimed that Colonel Rajoub was forming political alliances and providing weapons to supporters in anticipation of a fight with his rivals. *Al-Hayat* said a "battle for succession" had begun which could "explode within months and even take the form of assassination".

Muhammad Dahlan, Colonel Rajoub's younger counterpart in the Gaza Strip, was reported to be making similar moves. Other security chiefs, such as Mussa Arafat, chief of military intelligence, Saeb Ajez, the national security chief, and Ghazi Jabali, the police chief, are all jockeying for influence.

Al-Hayat said that Colonel Rajoub, regarded as the more ruthless of the two preventive security chiefs, had found an ally in Ghassan Shakaa, the Mayor of Nablus and a member of the PLO's executive council. It reported that an arms shipment valued at $40,000 (£25,000) recently was intercepted en route to Ramallah, where it was to have been distributed to Colonel Rajoub's supporters.

Colonel Rajoub, a former leader of the Palestinian intifada, was reported by *Al-Hayat* to have fewer enemies to deal with than Mr Dahlan. It claimed that last month he made a visit to Washington, arranged by the Clinton Administration, to "sound out" his position.

Death-bed plea for 'Palestine' partition

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

SIR ISAIAH BERLIN, the distinguished Oxford philosopher, issued a statement, released on the day of his death, urging the partition of "Palestine" between Jews and Palestinians and the creation of a Muslim quarter in Jerusalem guaranteed by the United Nations.

In a rare political comment, the lifelong supporter of Israel authorised the statement this month which is a strong implicit criticism of the policies of Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, who begins official talks in Britain today.

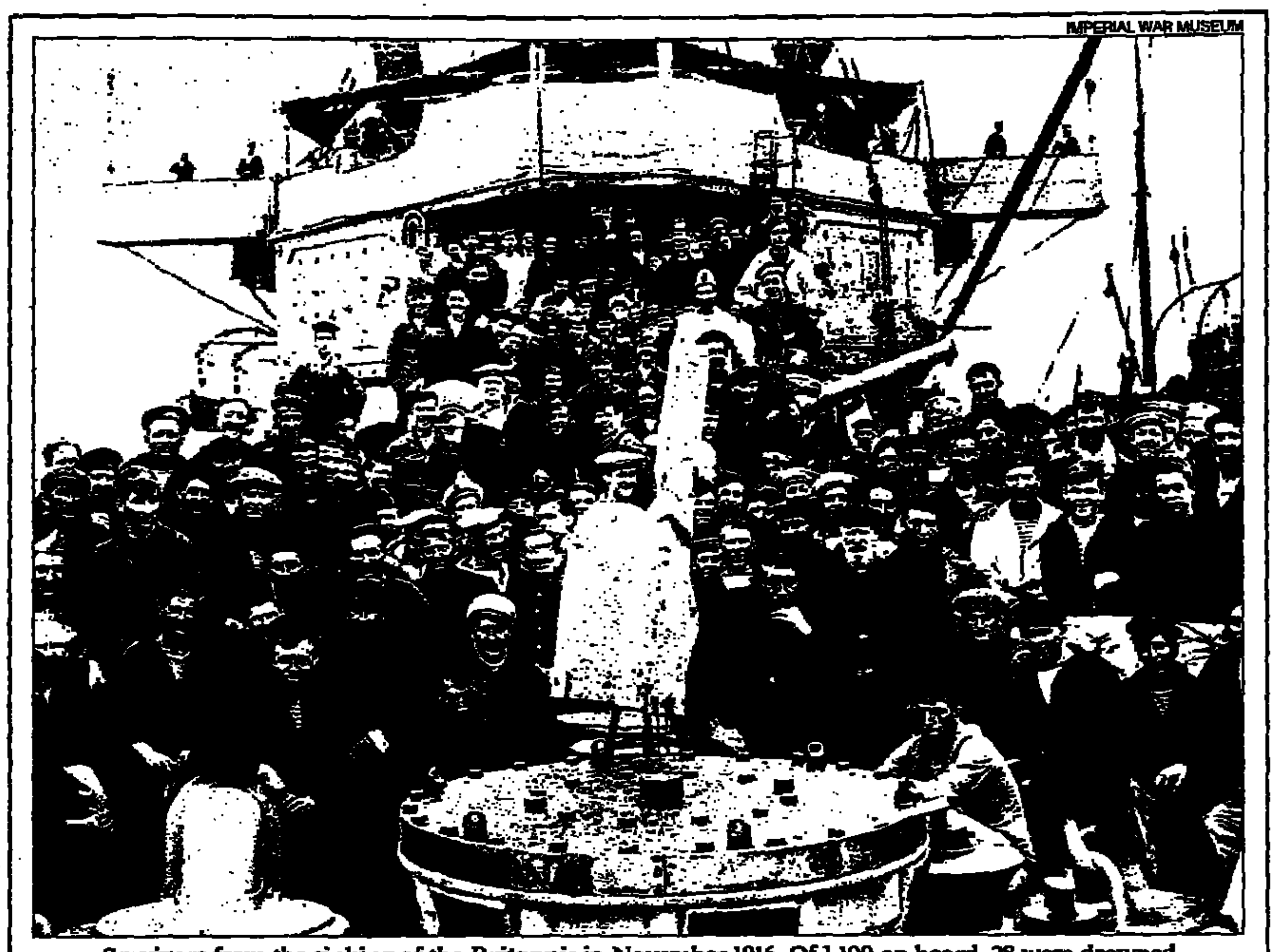
Sir Isaiah said it was plain that, since both sides claimed the total possession of Palestine, neither claim could be accepted without a grave injustice. The only correct solution was therefore a compromise, with the country partitioned along the lines of the Oslo agreement.

"Ideally, what we are calling for is a relationship of good neighbours, but given the number of bigoted, terrorist chauvinists on both sides, this is impracticable," he said. The solution was "reluctant toleration" for fear of the alternative, a savage war.

In the statement, released on November 5, he said Jerusalem should remain the capital of Israel, with the Muslim holy places being extra-territorial to a Muslim authority. The Arab quarter should be guaranteed by the UN, by force if necessary.

Mr Netanyahu today faces a barrage of protests by Jewish peace activists and tough talk from the Government. In meetings today with Tony Blair and Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, the Israeli Prime Minister will be told that Britain is gravely concerned about the deadlock in the Middle East peace process. He will be urged to implement in full the Oslo interim agreement, withdraw Israeli troops from the West Bank and halt the building of all new settlements.

IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM



Survivors from the sinking of the *Britannic* in November 1916. Of 1,100 on board, 28 were drowned

Divers tackle mystery of Titanic's sister

FROM JOHN CARR
IN ATHENS

DIVERS this week hope to shed light on the fate of the luxury liner *Britannic*, sunk by a mysterious explosion near the Greek island of Kea in 1916 while on its way to pick up British war casualties from the Middle East.

Of more than 1,100 people on board, 28 died, sucked under by the ship's propellers as it went down.

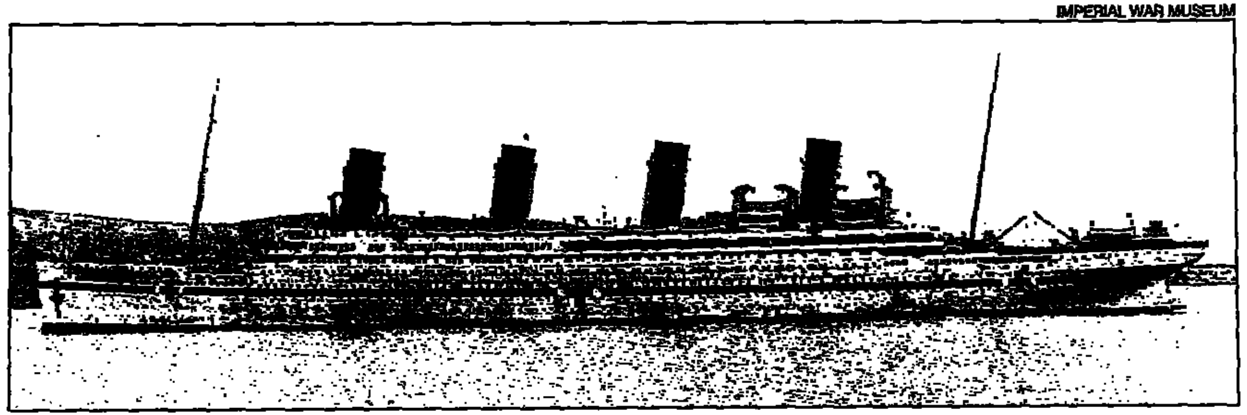
A sister ship to the *Titanic* and about a tenth larger, the *Britannic* lies on its starboard side nearly 400ft down in the Kea channel. As one of the world's biggest wrecks, the largely intact hull and superstructure have been explored by such marine luminaries as the late Jacques-Yves Cousteau, who discovered it 20 years ago, and Robert Ballard, who discovered the wreck of the *Titanic*. Despite those efforts, why the *Britannic* sank a mere 57 minutes after the blast ripped a gash in its bow, and what caused the explosion, remain unanswered questions.

Nineteen divers working on "Project Britannic 97" said they had taken video footage of metal fragments found on and near the wreck to test the prevailing theory that the ship hit a mine or was torpedoed. The team, which includes one Briton, has been diving at the site for several weeks.

On November 21, the day of the sinking, Britain had been in the process of increasing its military presence in the Middle East for more than a year. British forces were finding it difficult to dislodge the Turks from Palestine and had lost two battles in Gaza. Mounting casualties drove the Government to requisition the *Britannic* after its maiden commercial voyage and turn it into a hospital ship.

It never completed its first voyage in its new capacity — to collect wounded soldiers on the island of Lesbos, and take them to Southampton. Survivors described later how Captain Charles Bartlett, the master, nosed the liner at full speed towards Kea in a vain attempt to run it aground and save lives.

IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM



The *Britannic*, a tenth larger than its more famous sister ship the *Titanic*, sank in a mere 57 minutes

WORLD SUMMARY

Poll likely to extend Moi's rule

Nairobi: Kenyans are to go to the polls on December 29 in a general election widely expected to return President Moi to power (David Orr writes).

President Moi, 74, and his Kanu party won a clear victory in 1992 and analysts say that there is little to stop them repeating their success next month. The President has been in power for 19 years and shows little sign of slowing down. A conservative with strongly autocratic tendencies, he tours the country tirelessly, lecturing his countrymen and admonishing his rivals.

Visas for Kenya

Nairobi: Britons visiting Kenya will need visas from Saturday, the Foreign Ministry said. A single-entry visa will cost $60 (£36), a multiple-entry, one-year visa $160, and a multiple-entry, two-year visa $200. The Kenyan decision follows a British move in March last year to insist on visas for Kenyans. *(AFP)*

Sex gang swoop

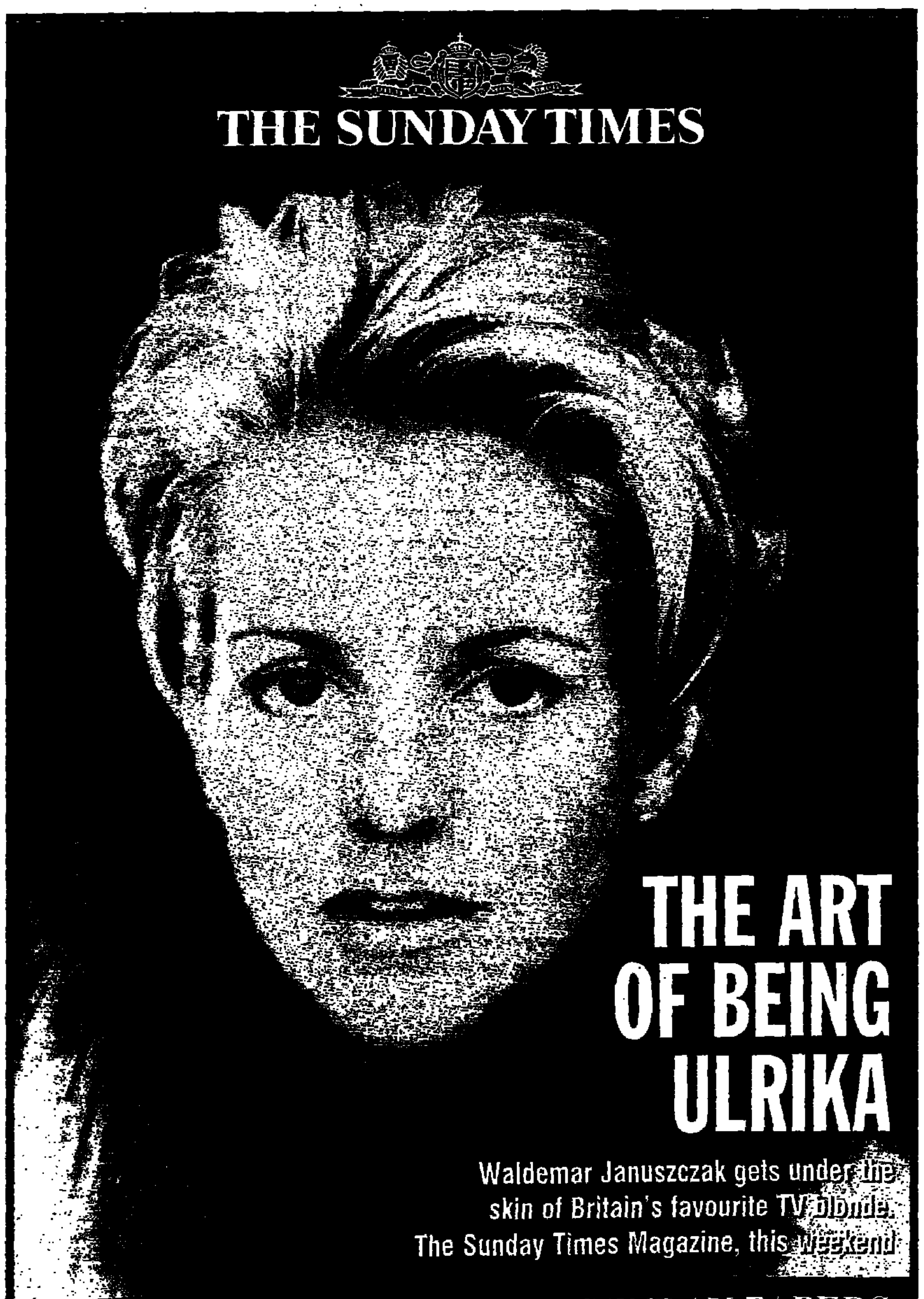
Prague: Czech police arrested and charged an unammed 41-year-old British man in connection with heading the Czech branch of an international paedophile network. Five men were taken into custody after police raided a flat in central Prague and found five young boys who had been drugged.

Le Pen victory

Paris: A French court awarded 40,000 francs (£4,100) to Jean-Marie Le Pen, the far-right leader, ruling he had not made anti-Semitic slurs attributed to him in a recent book. *Le Roman d'un President* quoted him as saying President Chirac was in the pay of Jewish groups. *(Reuters)*

Group at a loss

Oslo: The Losers' Rights Union, founded by Norwegians who feel they just cannot win, is on the verge of economic failure. Ole Odegaard, the general secretary, said the group needs 200,000 kroner (£16,500) or it would close by the end of the year. *(AP)*



THE SUNDAY TIMES

THE ART OF BEING ULRIKA

Waldemar Januszczak gets under the skin of Britain's favourite TV blonde. The Sunday Times Magazine, this weekend

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Dr Thomas Stuttaford reports on child battering, whooping cough, angina, hormone treatment and herpes

Signs of abuse doctors watch for

Like everyone else in Britain, doctors have been discussing the Louise Woodward case. Those who have had experience, however brief, of paediatrics, casualty or general practice have dealt with many cases such as that of Matthew Eappen, and they know that there is a pattern to baby battering.

> Repeated injury is highly suggestive of abuse or inadequate supervision

They also know that, however it happened, Matthew was injured not once but on at least three separate *occasions* (although the prosecution did not suggest Miss Woodward was responsible for the earlier injuries). Leading paediatricians fear that the outcome of this case, and the attendant emotion and excitement, will trivialise the horror of child battering, and may have tended to obscure the hallmarks of this offence, which every doctor should be looking for.

It was implied by the defence team at the trial that the previously excellent character of Miss Woodward would make it unlikely that she had damaged Matthew. Some baby batterers do have an antisocial personality — previously known as psychopathic — and as such they would have shown persistent signs, from an early age, of being impulsive, irresponsible, unable to control their urges and emotions and unable to bear being thwarted, even by a child who defied them by constantly crying, but this applies to only a proportion of the cases. These people would also be emotionally blunted, free of anxiety and remorse, but not necessarily socially unappealing. As the judge said when passing sentence in Louise Woodward's case, this might have been a temporary lapse in part due to her inexperience.

Merck's Manual is the standard textbook on medicine which is never out of reach of American hospital doctors and general practitioners. It lists five features that are characteristic of baby battering:

There is a reluctance on the part of the carer to give a history of the injury.

There is an inconsistent history as to the cause of the injury and of the incident that necessitated the child's admission to hospital. The story of how the injury was caused is at variance with the apparent stage of recovery from the injury.

There is a history of an injury that is incompatible with the developmental capabilities of the child. That is to say that the child is sometimes alleged to have hurt itself in a way that would be impossible given its physical development.

There is an inappropriate response by the carer to the severity of the injury.

There are delays in the reporting, and therefore the diagnosis, of the injury.

In cases of child battering there are characteristically bony injuries that are in various stages of healing. X-rays of Matthew when finally admitted as an emergency showed that he had had an earlier fracture of the wrist. Later tests demonstrated that he had also suffered a previous fracture of the skull that predated his final collapse but was likely to have been caused after his wrist fracture. In the judge's view, it was his final injury that exacerbated earlier damage to his brain and caused his death.

The accepted opinion is that repeated injury is highly suggestive of abuse or inadequate supervision. If Miss Woodward was, as the court decided, responsible for Matthew's final injury, it is possible that any account of it that may be sold to a newspaper will be based on a very faulty memory, and therefore worthless. This is not to say that Miss Woodward is necessarily lying, for the mind has curious ways of subconsciously deleting from the memory events that are too distressing to contemplate.

This attribute accounts for a proportion of those people who are known to have behaved badly, unwisely or criminally and who are thereafter able to rewrite history without, in their view, being in any way dishonest.

The accused in these instances are likely to be suffering from an hysterical loss of memory, a fugue, in which there is a subconscious desire to forget the whole episode, a process which gives them the conviction that they are innocent. This psychological device, entirely subconscious, absolves them from the primary guilt of having committed the offence, and has the secondary advantage that it helps them to refute any charges that might have brought with them the threat of retribution.

Louise Woodward has been found guilty of manslaughter, and her evidence, such as it was, has been rejected by the jury and the judge, but it shouldn't therefore be assumed that she is deliberately lying. It could be that she has a genuine belief in her own innocence.

SUSANNAH BINNEY

Zachary Haughton, aged two: his mother recognised the symptoms of whooping cough after doctors had misdiagnosed the illness

Inoculation that can fail the young

ZACHARY HAUGHTON developed classic symptoms of whooping cough, misdiagnosed by doctors but eventually recognised by his mother. The doctors had discounted whooping cough because Zachary — who is now two — had been immunised.

Zachary's mother, Emma, has written an account of the troubles her son has had since the summer after being infected by his elder brother, who had lesser symptoms and had caught the virus at school.

Contrary to popular belief, neither an actual attack nor the injections give guaranteed immunity for life. But any subsequent infection, if one occurs, tends to be less severe — so much so that, as the Haughton family have discovered, they often go undiagnosed.

The incubation period for whooping cough is usually about a fortnight, but varies from seven to 14 days. The infection starts like a common cold with a runny nose, weeping eyes and a hacking cough. Later, the patient is racked by paroxysms of coughing, which are frequently followed by a gasping, in-drawing of breath. As in Zachary's case, vomiting is a feature. It often follows coughing but may be independent of it. Convalescence takes a month or two, but the classic cough may last for many months.

Inoculated children are rarely severely affected by whooping cough, whereas in the past, before the possibility of immunisation, it was a frightening and sometimes fatal disease for children aged under two.

Fresh hope for angina sufferers

I'm told that I underrated the misfortunes that recently befell Britain's ambassadorial team in Brussels. The series of mishaps culminated with Lady Goulden, wife of the representative to Nato, needing urgent coronary bypass surgery after being afflicted by unstable angina. As recently as three years ago, some doctors were unaware that there were different types of angina.

Patients who have stable, exercise-related angina should be investigated, but they are likely to avoid serious trouble for many years. Unstable angina may represent a much greater threat to health, and even survival. It is diagnosed when patients complain of a chest pain that comes on at rest or after minimal activity.

Unstable angina may be caused by a progressive narrowing of the coronary arteries, or by rupture of one of the *atheromatous plaques*, the lumps of fatty material that stick to the inside of the artery wall. A rupture of an atheromatous plaque accounts for 50 to to 60 per cent of the patients with unstable angina admitted to hospital. It is an ominous form of angina, with 5 per cent of its victims dying within a week of the attack, and 12 per cent within six months.

The sudden onset of unstable angina may be the first indication that a patient has coronary arterial disease, or it may represent a worsening in the condition in people who are already known to have straightforward angina, or who have had a previous heart attack. As many people are admitted to hospital with severe unstable angina as are admitted with a coronary thrombosis. Among the doctors who have been investigating angina in all its forms are Professor Derek Yellon of University College London and Dr Kim Fox of the Royal Brompton Hospital, London. They have shown that heart attack patients who have recurrent minor bouts of angina as a result of a narrowed artery fare better than those whose attack follows the sudden fragmentation of a plaque without any previous history of angina.

This protective phenomenon is called ischaemic preconditioning. During the process the heart becomes accustomed to being deprived of an adequate blood supply and adjusts to it with the development of secondary smaller arteries, which form a natural bypass. When the heart attack strikes there is less damage to the heart muscle, and less likelihood that essential organs are starved of oxygenated blood.

The good news announced by Professor Yellon and Dr Fox at a recent cardiologists' conference in America is that if angina is treated with a potassium channel opener, the tablets not only relieve the pain but artificially produce ischaemic preconditioning.

Ikorel nicorandil is the only potassium channel opener licensed for the treatment of angina in the United Kingdom. It works by dilating large and small coronary arteries, and by reducing the heart's workload.

The hope is that if it is used to treat people with stable angina, they will be *protected* should the unstable condition ever supervene.

HRT reduces heart disease

THE Imperial Cancer Research Fund's analysis of 51 research projects throughout the world has shown that taking hormone replacement therapy (HRT) gives clear advantages in reducing death from cardiovascular disease and osteoporosis.

The research confirms that HRT does to a small extent increase the risk of breast cancer, but that this disappears within five years of discontinuing treatment.

The risk of breast cancer increases progressively with the length of time HRT is taken. The rate in non-users of HRT is 45 per 1,000 women, increasing to 47, 51 and 57 per 1,000 after 5, 10 or 15 years respectively of HRT use.

As the use of HRT becomes more acceptable, so does the clamour against the use of those drugs that are made from the urine of pregnant mares — Premarin, Prempak-C, Premique and Premique Cycle. An appreciable number of the thousands of foals that are the by-product of hormone manufacture are slaughtered at the age of four months.

Horses need not suffer

These four HRT preparations are the only ones that involve the farming of mares in stalls, and later the death of some of their foals. Other HRT preparations can be taken with an easy conscience by animal-lovers.

Herpes cases on increase

TODAY'S lovers reassure themselves that although genital herpes was a worry in the Seventies and Eighties, the danger has now passed. How wrong they are.

Although herpes no longer engenders the fear it once did, it is not only still around, but it is more prevalent than ever. Both the *New England Journal of Medicine* and the *British Medical Journal* have recently reported on its incidence.

The number of younger people who have been infected with herpes in the six years to 1994 was 30 per cent higher than it was between 1976 and 1980. Fortunately, treatment is available for acute attacks of genital herpes or when necessary to keep the skin pristine, and the virus confined to the central nervous system.

In some cases, particularly in women, acute attacks can be disabling, but in most people the recurrent bouts turn out to be no more than an itchy, tender nuisance.

The anxiety that used to be felt when pregnant woman developed herpes is thought to be excessive unless she is having a severe attack at the time of delivery.

Five 200mg tablets per day for five days of Zovirax Aciclovir, or one tablet twice a day of Valtrex Valaciclovir for five to ten days can vanquish an acute attack, or in smaller doses to prevent its recurrence.

ARTS

Dead man working: Tim Robbins on his new film, Nothing to Lose. *Pages 34-37*

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Admission will be by ticket only (£10 per person, to *include mulled wine and mince pies*). You are advised to apply early by sending a SAE and cheque (made payable to The Royal College of Surgeons of England) to

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The high price of fashion fame

Its reputation as a hothouse for fashion talent is unrivalled. But now something disturbing is happening at St Martins. **Jason Cowley** reports.

Famous names from the fashion faculty of Central St Martins College of Art and Design. Clockwise from top left. John Galliano, Stella McCartney, Inacio Ribeiro and Suzanne Clements, Matthew Williamson. Above them two of the outlandish designs by students at the school, shown during this year's London Fashion Week

The fashion faculty of Central St Martins College of Art and Design occupies a prime location on Charing Cross Road, but you can easily miss it amid the book superstores, crawl of traffic and autumn crowds. It looks *more like a dilapidated* office block than *home to* arguably the world's most famous fashion college, and it is little better inside: the lift-shaft is broken, walls are crumbling, and lecture rooms have a shabby desolation. Everything is *covered by a thin film of dust.*

Yet from this squalid *environment* have emerged some of the world's most influential designers, style commentators and *fashion stylists.* Former students include Alexander McQueen, John Galliano, head designers respectively of the French houses Givenchy and Dior; and among recent graduates are Antonio Berardi, Hussein Chalayan, Suzanne Clements, Inacio Ribeiro — who together form the design duo Clements Ribeiro — and Stella McCartney, head designer at Chloë.

Central St Martins: salon volatile

The writer Drusilla Beyfus is on the teaching staff, and Paul Smith and Katharine Hamnett are guest lecturers. Overseeing everything is Wendy Dagworthy, recently featured in the style magazine *ID's* list of the most influential people in British fashion. She had her own cult label *in the 1970s and early 1980s, and has been director of the BA fashion* course since 1988.

"St Martins is the best; its reputation for excellence is unrivalled in Europe," says Katie Grand, fashion editor of *Dazed and Confused* magazine and a former student. "Its *success has less to do with the teaching staff, who can leave you to your own devices,* than with the kind of people who go there; they are uniquely committed to a career in fashion. They know that a degree from St Martins can be a passport to international renown."

There are few industries more competitive than fashion. The endless search for originality, the egotism, the creative rivalry, the hard focus on the body, the prevailing nastiness, the adulation and glittering rewards: all generate a kind of punitive hysteria. Central St Martins is the fashion business in microcosm — *a volatile place, where,* concedes Jane Rapley, Dean of Fashion, the "*strange* chemistry" among the class of '97 has created an atmosphere unusual even in an instituion as creatively fraught as this one.

As *Matthew Williamson,* a recent *star of London Fashion* Week and a St Martins graduate in 1994, puts it: "It's so competitive, it really is a case of sink or swim. Everyone wants to be a star, to have their *own line, collections* and catwalk shows. The high *profile* of the school and its star names amplifies expectation."

On a slow afternoon the *students slouch around tables in the refectory, smoking and* drinking coffee. Most resemble extras from the set of, say, *Mad Max* or *Robocop:* gravity-defying hairstyles, pierced noses, exotic clothes. They seem relaxed enough, but talking to them, you begin to realise that something is *seriously wrong; that recent events at the school have left* them confused and uneasy.

For in the past year, one student set herself alight and suffered appalling injuries, another nearly starved himself *to death,* while *a third has left* the school and is thought to be living as a virtual recluse in a London suburb. All three were second-year students in their early twenties. A fourth student, in her early thirties, had a heart attack and had to leave the college.

Fashion schools are notoriously peopled with self-consciously neurotic outsiders; but the current atmosphere of self-harm and alienation at the school is something altogether more disturbing. So, what is going on at the flagship of British creative education?

One student offers this insight: "St Martins is one of the *most unpleasant* places I've been in. There is *terrible* rivalry, really cutthroat. Things were so bad in the run-up to the press show in Graduate Fashion Week this summer that some teachers *considered hiring bodyguards,* because *they'd* received death threats from students whose work was not chosen."

The question of selection for the press show is an open wound that continues to fester. Until this *summer* all students had the opportunity to show their collections to fashion journalists, buyers from the big stores and talent scouts from the leading *fashion* houses at *a special* press show organised by the college as part of Graduate Fashion Week. But an inexorable rise in student numbers (*since* 1989 *the figure has more than* trebled, to 480) and a wish to streamline the press show led the school to introduce an unpopular policy of selection.

As a result, more than half *of all final year students missed out from showcasing* their work in the press *show;* they were left to display their portfolios at the low-profile "static" exhibition that runs alongside the main press event. Anxiety at being excluded from the press *show* is *thought to have contributed to what even Jane Rapley agrees* are feelings of hysteria.

"The *real problem,*" says one male student, "was we were told about this change of policy in the middle of our course; we had joined the college thinking everyone was *guaranteed a press show.*"

Yet the number of applicants continues to rise. At St Martins, which has four London sites, students can study anything from graphics and fine art to theatre design and sculpture. The fashion school has *six distinct degree courses: fashion design (menswear or women's wear);* design with marketing; fashion textiles, and fashion journalism, communications and promotion. There are six applicants for every place; almost a third of all undergraduates are from overseas. Ms Rapley concedes that some do have difficulty adjusting to the intense competition.

Abigail Rayner, who graduated in 1996 and works as a *freelance writer,* says: "*What I remember most* was the rivalry and hatred among the students. It was not uncommon to steal each other's collections on the eve of the main graduate shows, and dump them in the bins on Charing Cross Road."

Jane Rapley talks to me candidly of the "volatility of the past 12 months", and of the "strange chemistry" that existed among the graduates of 1997. The decision to introduce selection at the press show *was* unpopular, but necessary — *the event was becoming too unwieldy and not every* student's work was suited to a catwalk performance.

"And if the students had bothered to read the prospectus, they would have seen that they had no automatic right to be in the fashion show: *it is not formally part of the assessment process.*"

She denies that staff required bodyguards because of death threats; but "as with all these things, there is a grain of truth in them; security was bolstered for the show but for reasons unconnected *[with the dispute]*". *She says:* "*I suspect* that a lot of the hysteria is coming from a handful of students who weren't selected for the show. What has to be remembered about St Martins is that its pre-eminence creates *its* own pressure. *Fashion attracts a competitive animal,* and many students, excited by the media coverage surrounding the likes of McQueen and Galliano, aspire to succeed at the glamour end of it.

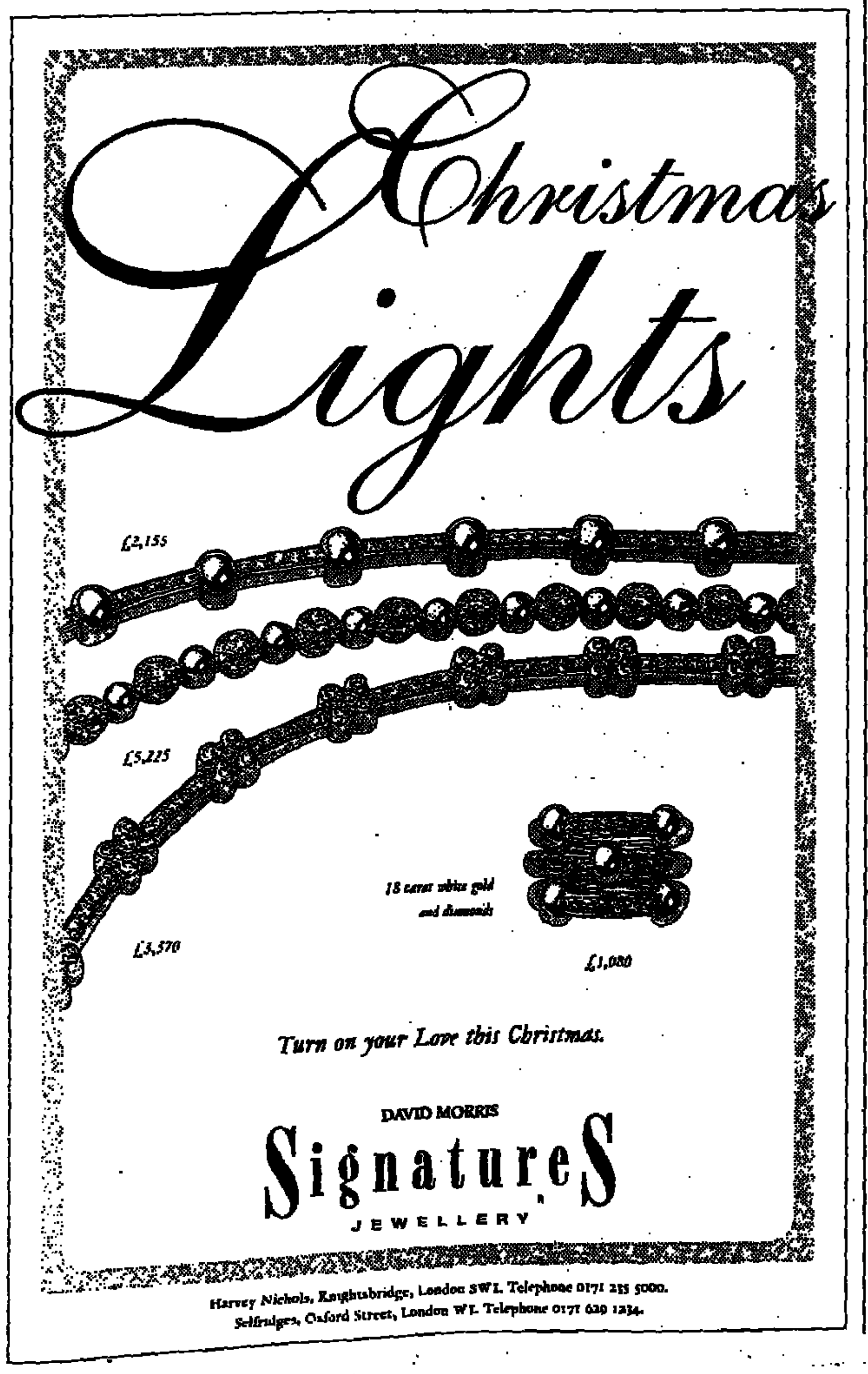
"All *this* creates a highly charged environment. We are aware that, in some years, this can get dangerously destructive. My staff are very conscious of the need *to defuse tensions.*" Each student has a personal tutor, and a network of support, from counsellors to legal advice, is available. "Our students are young adults, responsible for their personal lives. *If* they *don't want to share their problems* with us, we can't force them."

She denies any causal link between the suicide attempts and the school, and points out that the woman who had a heart attack had a history of heart disease before entering the school. "I am aware of only one genuine suicide attempt, the girl who set herself on fire," Ms *Rapley* says. "*She will come back when she* is *ready.* There may have been others I don't know about."

What about the boy who stopped eating? "Yes, another student did feel very pressured and was having severe problems; *he is an overseas student and was struggling to adjust to* life in London. He had a kind of breakdown. He is back with us now and is getting on well. As for the third student — I think I know who you mean — well, *he* is a special case.

"*Students carry baggage from their past,* they have personal problems unconnected with St Martins. Many come from disparate backgrounds and may not have the support of a stable family."

As for the unfortunate students' peers, they are entering their crucial final year, which holds the key to all their hopes and boundless ambition. "This is an anxious time," says Ms Rapley. "We do *not* set out to be destructive. Striving for *excellence is built into our* students, and generates its own tensions. But once they get back into their work, everything should be back to normal by Christmas."



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Would you pay to clean up politics?

Vernon Bogdanor argues for state funding of parties

The Labour Party's decision to return the £1 million donation to Bernie Ecclestone, president of the Formula One Association, raises yet again the question of how our political parties should be funded. The ideal would be financing entirely through membership subscriptions and small donations, but this is rarely achieved in modern democracies.

On the Continent, the State generally aids political parties in proportion to votes won or seats gained. In North America, state aid is triggered through the decisions of individuals, whose donations to candidates and parties qualify for tax relief or tax credits. Ronald Reagan's libertarian principles did not prevent him from accepting public funding for his presidential campaigns in 1980 and 1984.

In Britain, by contrast, much of the funding of the two major parties derives from companies and trade unions. A good deal of this is provided without securing the consent of those whose money it is. In 1991 Pensions Investment Research Consultants surveyed 35 companies which made political contributions. Only three had consulted their shareholders.

About 20 per cent of trade unionists usually "contract out" of the political levy. Yet, in 1992, for example, around 53 per cent of trade unionists voted for parties other than Labour. There is, therefore, good reason to believe that many non-Labour trade unionists unwittingly contribute to the political fund, whether through inertia or ignorance.

The connection between political donations and honours is a further unsavoury feature of the current system. Some 6 per cent of companies make donations to the Conservative Party, yet, during the years of Conservative Government, from 1979 to 1997, 50 per cent of knighthoods and peerages went to directors of companies making such donations. It is not easy to explain this correlation. Perhaps company donations have become the rich man's political levy, with the individual trafficking in honours which characterised the Lloyd George regime having been overtaken by a system of bulk purchase.

Too high a proportion of political funding is tarnished, coming from sources which serve sectional interests. Moreover, the power of these interests is in conflict with the fundamental democratic principle of "one person, one vote".

Under both John Smith and Tony Blair, Labour has sought to become less reliant on the unions. "Nobody," Mr Blair declared in 1995, "seriously believes that the business of the Labour Party is to be the political arm of the trade union movement." In 1974, the unions contributed no less than 92 per cent of the party's central income: by 1995, however, the unions for the first time contributed less than half of its income. The consequence has been greater reliance on rich donors and on companies. Without state aid that is inevitable.

The fundamental argument against state aid is that political parties are voluntary organisations. Yet the State already subsidises the political process in a number of ways. Public meeting rooms are provided free to election candidates, and election addresses are delivered free. Gifts to parties are exempt from inheritance tax and bequests of up to £1,000 are exempt from capital transfer tax. More important, broadcasters are required to provide party political broadcasts, whose annual value is about £3 million for each party, and party election broadcasts, whose value is around £10 million for each party.

Since 1937 the Leader of the Opposition has been paid a salary out of public funds, and, since 1975, state aid has been given to the Opposition parties. Although such payments have been restricted to the parties in Parliament, they free party funds to be spent *outside* Parliament.

Thus, we already have an ad hoc and unacknowledged system of state aid. To provide aid for the parties outside Parliament would introduce no new principle into our democracy; it would merely extend the operation of a principle that has already been accepted.

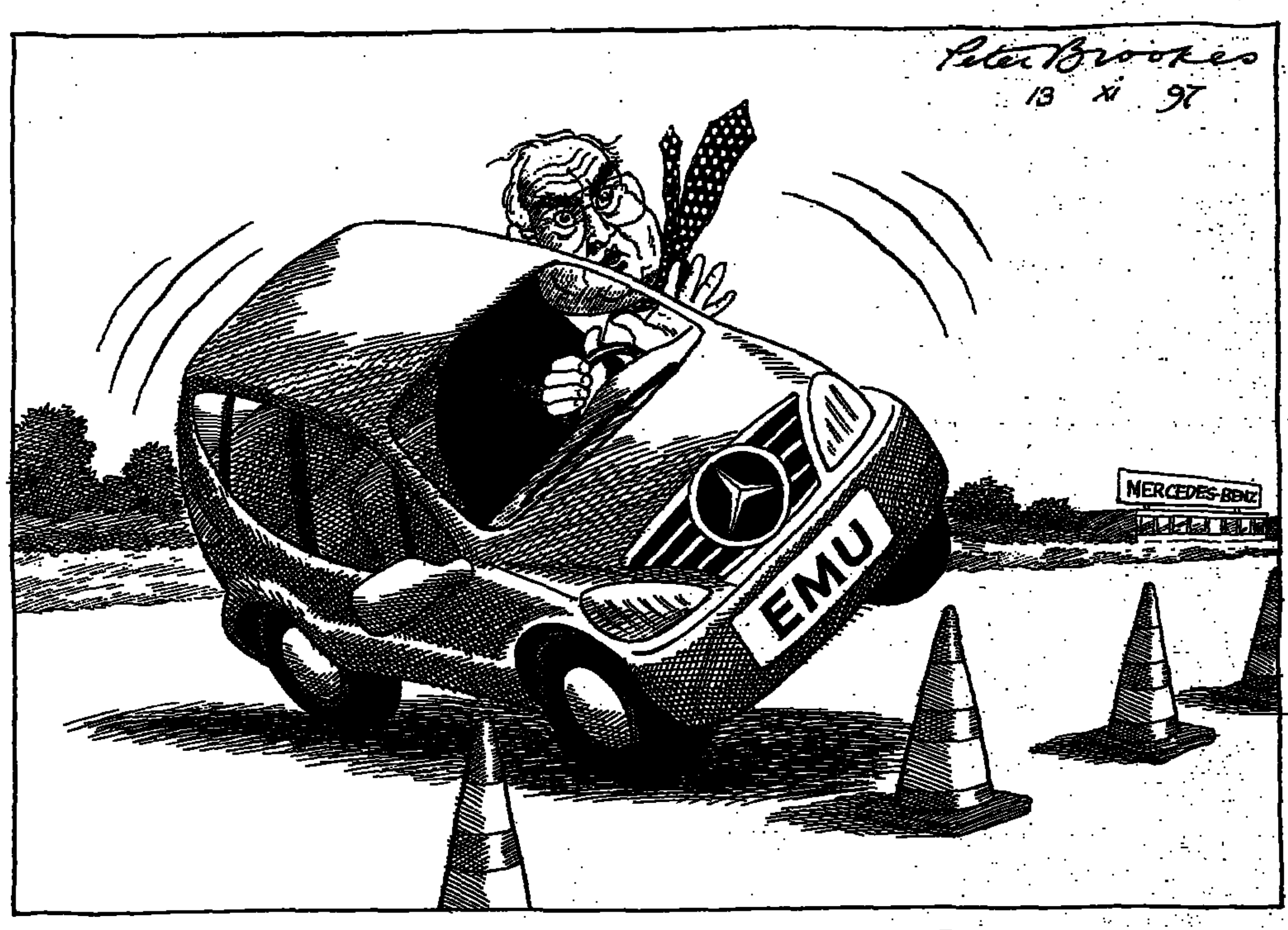
A further objection to public funding is that the State should not be called upon to assist parties in financial difficulties. State aid, it is suggested, would discourage participation, making the parties over-reliant on public funds and more remote from their members and supporters.

Yet state aid can be made conditional upon some visible index of public support, such as party membership. In my book, *Power and the People*, I outlined a scheme by which party membership subscriptions could "trigger" state aid. For each £10 raised, for example, the State could make a matching payment of £10. If a ceiling of aid were calculated so that, to achieve a *maximum*, each party would have to secure membership subscriptions from one in twelve of those who had voted for it in the previous general election, the total cost to the Exchequer would be less than £30 million a year.

The issue of state funding is one not of choice versus compulsion, but of institutional versus public funding. With public funding, the parties would be less reliant on institutional finance. Companies making political donations could be required, like trade unions, to establish a separate political fund, after a postal vote every ten years by shareholders. Collective shareholders such as pension funds should be required to contract out, as should individuals without a United Kingdom address. Other individual shareholders should be given the option of contracting out.

With public funding, the special interests would be weakened and the general interest strengthened. The cost involved would be a small price to pay for strengthening our democratic system.

The author is Professor of Government at Oxford University.



UNSTABLE GERMAN PROJECT IN NEED OF A RE-THINK . . .

Principle v pragmatism

In the intellectual debate over the euro, Blair comes a poor third

William Rees-Mogg

The interaction between three leading politicians, Tony Blair, Gordon Brown and William Hague, may decide whether Britain ever enters the single currency. Each has a different point of view. Mr Blair is a pragmatic single-currency supporter, in favour of the euro in principle, but unwilling to risk his party's political future, and content with postponing the decision until after the next election.

"Our own position will be judged on a hard-headed assessment of the economic benefits," is what he says. In fact, his decision will be more political than economic. Mr Blair is an intuitive politician of the first rank, but he will not find it easy to feel his way through this issue.

Gordon Brown is a genuine enthusiast. Whether or not he recently tried to bounce the Prime Minister into an early referendum, he hopes to use the process of preparation to build a psychological momentum towards British entry. He speaks of "the practical steps Government and industry will need to take before a decision to join the single currency". He does not speak, as Mr Blair might, of a decision "whether" to join the single currency. For him, the decision has already been made; for Tony Blair, it has not.

The decision has been made in the opposite sense by William Hague. His policy is to oppose British entry in this Parliament or the next. He will fight the next election, and, if necessary, the referendum, under the banner of "no entry". On Monday Mr Brown and Mr Hague spoke to the CBI. Where Brown concentrated on the preparations, and based his case for British entry mainly on the secondary issue of transaction costs, Hague discussed the central economic issues. If this was a debate, Hague won it.

The well financed pro-entry lobby speaks of economic convergence as though it were a once-for-all state of grace which, when achieved, will be permanent. Mr Hague was more realistic: "The British and German business cycles are, if anything, diverging . . . Sustained convergence is not some theoretical concept that only economic professionals need worry about. It goes to the heart of whether a single currency can work." Those of us, such as Martin Taylor of Barclays Bank, who are "EMU-sceptic", have repeatedly raised the convergence issue without getting any convincing answer; William Hague is right to demand one.

He also raised the issue, which may intellectually be the most important, of the relationship between exchange rates and employment. This is a central theme of Maynard Keynes's best-known book, *The General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money*, 1936. Mr Hague made Keynes's point that exchange-rate adjustments and wage costs can become policy alternatives. If you cannot devalue, you may have to force wages down. Keynes himself thought that only a fascist state could do that.

"Wages," Mr Hague said, "have not fallen since the Great Depression. Before the CBI shakes hands with the TUC on a single currency, you should fix them in the eye and ask them if they are prepared to tell their members that they might have to accept a pay cut." Keynes came to the conclusion that "the maintenance of a stable general level of money-wages is . . . the most advisable policy . . . *provided that equilibrium with the rest of the world can be secured by means of fluctuating exchanges*". The italics are mine. The single currency is a system of disequilibrium for Europe, because it makes this adjustment impossible.

Mr Hague also questioned whether one can combine a single European currency with separate national budgets. "Your companies would have to pay higher taxes so that poorer countries can be protected from the effects of a single currency." In this speech he has challenged the Government on its chosen ground. He is not yet arguing the constitutional case, which the Prime Minister so foolishly pretends does not exist; he is arguing the economic case, which the Prime Minister says will be decisive.

There are gaps between the three men's intellectual grasp of the subject. If this week's CBI speeches on the single currency had to be put before academic examiners, Tony Blair's would get an athlete's third, "ill thought-out, under-researched, superficial and failing to identify the main issues"; Gordon Brown's would get a second, "unoriginal, missing the main issues, but showing signs of work on secondary issues without having any real sense of relevance"; William Hague's would get a first, "identifies the main issues, defines the questions which need to be resolved, shows substantial understanding of economic theory, well focused".

Of course, elitists will say that this intellectual argument does not matter, because the people are too stupid to decide their own future. Herr Bernd Pischetsrieder, the chairman of BMW, told the CBI: "You can't have a public opinion poll on whether monetary union is good or bad." He is mistaken. The British people have a long history of getting things right: popular judgment is often sounder as well as stronger than that of the elite. The Government cannot assume that people will be too thick to notice if ministers continue to produce feeble answers to William Hague's good questions. The general public know that this is an issue of national survival, even if ministers do not.

Mr Hague's political decisiveness is encouraging. When Margaret Thatcher became Leader of the Opposition, she had to face the fact that she was in a minority in her own Shadow Cabinet. It was not until 1981, when she had been leader for six years, that she achieved a marginally Thatcherite Cabinet; even then she still had "Wets" in key ministries. Mr Hague saw the failure of John Major's European compromise, and has immediately moved to a coherent EMU-sceptic policy. The Conservative opposition to his policy survives only outside the Shadow Cabinet; it consists largely of retired former ministers from earlier periods. Hague's has been the toughest and quickest reconstruction of the Tory party since 1940, and he has largely united the party behind it.

Quite a number of redundant elders of the party naturally resent so rapid a termination of their political careers. Yet the policy itself is popular in the party, and appeals to a section of the electorate which did not vote Conservative at the general election. Those who do not want to join the single currency now have a leader they can follow with confidence. Weak and inarticulate leaders are not much use; on the European issue, Hague is articulate and strong.

The Labour Party may seem to be united, but Tony Blair may find his Cabinet hard to hold together. The relationship between a Prime Minister and a Chancellor of the Exchequer is usually rather tense, unless the Chancellor is weak and subordinate. Gordon Brown is not that. For him the European issue is an emotional one, but it is a pragmatic one for the Prime Minister. From now on every euro policy will have to be negotiated between Brown's principle and Blair's pragmatism; the two men are temperamentally far apart, and Gordon Brown sees Tony Blair as his successful but rather undeserving rival for Downing Street.

Lobbyists for the euro claim that British entry is inevitable, that the euro will be a success, and that the only pity is that we shall not be joining at the beginning. This argument of historical inevitability is always a bad one, and in this case it is particularly weak. No doubt Britain may decide to join if the economic climate of the next five years proves unexpectedly benign and stable. Yet no one knows what the British economy will be like between now and 2002; I rather expect it will go through one of Tim Congdon's "sour spots". It is presumptuous to forecast the outcome of a possible referendum in 2002, but we can already see how the battle is shaping.

Economic and monetary union is an issue on which many people, as well as Gordon Brown, hold passionate views. That is reasonable enough. It affects our whole national future, jobs, wages, taxes and, above all, the independence of Britain.

There is a parallel with the politics of 1940. Then, as Andrew Roberts has written, the old Chamberlainite loyalists resented Winston Churchill because he had replaced their man. It was the people who believed in him. When the independence of Britain is at stake, it is the people we should trust. So far as I can see, William Hague does trust them, and I believe they will come to trust him.

The end of a free for all

Magnus Linklater on the dilemma of our museums

Autumn in Venice, and it is still shuffling room only in St Mark's Cathedral. The tourists stand shoulder to shoulder, gazing at the mosaics, and those astonishing gilded domes, before swilling out again into the sunlight. Nearly five million tourists come here every year, and most of them, at some point, step inside this "treasure heap of gold", as Ruskin called it. They do so for free.

A gondola ride away, up the Grand Canal, the Accademia, one of the world's great galleries, bristling with Titians, Bellinis, and Tintorettos, ranks almost as high on the essential list. It draws, however, fewer than 400,000 people, 8 per cent of the annual total; it charges an entrance fee — just 12,000 lire, or about £4. Enough, however, to persuade the casual tourist to glide on past.

That, in crude terms, is the dilemma facing museums in Britain as they contemplate the near-inevitability of introducing entry fees. Charging, it seems, does put people off. Why does Glasgow's Kelvingrove Museum (free — more than one million visitors a year) attract nearly twice as many people as the rather more famous Prado in Madrid (fewer than 600,000)? Why have annual visitor numbers at the British Museum (still free) grown from 3.8 to 6.8 million in ten years, while the Natural History Museum is down from 3.2 million to 1.8? Statistics such as these fly in the face of a survey this week from Glasgow Caledonian University and the Central Office of Information, which claimed that price was not a serious factor in putting off prospective visitors.

The report came amid much hand-wringing from the museum world, meeting in London on Tuesday. The Government has shifted its position, with the Arts Minister Mark Fisher backing away from the principle of free admission, and urging museums to behave like Marks & Spencer or Harvey Nichols. Some directors, such as Alan Borg of the Victoria and Albert, have positively embraced the idea of charging, suggesting that free entry amounts to providing a subsidy for the middle classes. But most still shrink from it.

They do so for reasons that are part emotional, part commercial. The emotional argument goes back to the origins of museums themselves, those Victorian engines of social improvement, whose doors were open to all and which welcomed everyone from the expert researcher to "the curious and those seeking shelter from the rain". Imposing charges is bound to put off those least able to afford them.

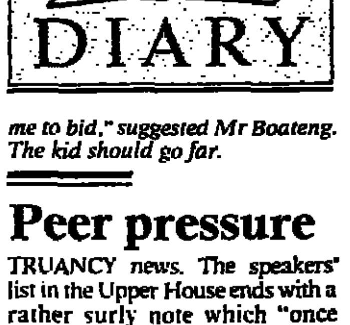
The commercial argument is one that has to be confronted by any museum with declining resources and a grant which has been cut in real terms by as much as 20 per cent in less than four years. Next January the Royal Museum in Edinburgh will impose a £3 adult charge for the first time in its history. Its director, Mark Jones, knows that attendance will decline initially by between 20 and 30 per cent. Some people will simply stop coming.

But he knows, too, that this will impose certain changes — and they may not necessarily be for the worse. Used intelligently, the income from admission charges can help to improve the way a museum presents itself to the world. The Royal Museum in Edinburgh will net an additional £700,000 a year, and, more importantly, will be able to reclaim more than £1 million in VAT. This will help to bring exhibits out of stock and improve access for the young through greater use of interactive technology — the modern version of those push-button steam engines in the Science Museum.

Heavily discounted annual tickets can encourage regular visits. One detailed survey in Ireland suggests that as many as a third of all visitors to national museums never even look at an exhibit. They use them as rendezvous, to shelter from the weather or as a convenient café. Charging fees, it concluded, would encourage "quality" visits, with more people spending time actually looking at the displays.

There are encouraging trends. At one extreme, the Louvre in Paris, with its massive refurbishment, has greatly increased its attendance figures. At the other, visitor numbers at the Museum of Flight in Scotland slumped from 40,000 to 28,000 after introducing charges, then climbed to 50,000 because of a complete overhaul by an energetic new director. The truth about the Accademia in Venice may be less about ticket charges than its forbidding exterior, the dim way it displays its treasures, perhaps even its daunting name.

No one doubts that something precious is lost when a great museum tells the world it is no longer open to all and free at the point of access. Mr Fisher's injunction that museums should be more like Marks & Spencer misses the fundamental point that they are cultural assets, not grocer's shops. But if the State is now to back away from support, it need not be the end of civilisation as we know it. The future for museums may be harsher, more materialistic, and certainly more expensive. But it need not necessarily be worse.

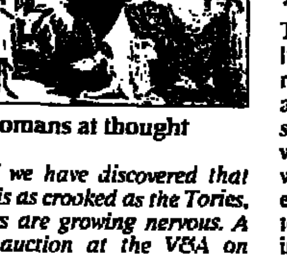


Berlin wall

THEY were colossi in British academia and both were internationally renowned for their scholarship. But while A.L. Rowse, who died last month, received virtually no official recognition for his work, Sir Isaiah Berlin departed last week laden with honours. Observers have liked to blame the humiliation on Rowse's irritability when compared with Sir Isaiah's warmth. But now I have learnt the real reason: the Tudor historian fell foul of the Maecenas men, a secretive and influential committee which advises the Government about which men of letters should receive a gong.

The group, named after C Cilnius Maecenas, the Roman patron of Virgil and Horace, included none other than Sir Isaiah, who for decades conducted a feud with Rowse. The trigger is long forgotten, but essentially it was a personality clash.

It prevented Rowse from being appointed anything until he was virtually on his deathbed, aged 93 — and then a "mere" Companion of Honour. By contrast, the Latvian-born philosopher was appointed CBE in 1946, knighted in 1957 and admitted to the Order of Merit in 1971, which led to him becoming its senior non-royal. Maecenas's generosity ensured that two millennia later we can still enjoy the best classical writers. It is a pity, but also rather inevitable, that his name has become linked to intellectual rivalry.



Romans at thought

● *NOW we have discovered that Labour is as crooked as the Tories, ministers are growing nervous. A charity auction at the V&A on Tuesday (chaired, yet again, by Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare) for Mencap was attended by Paul Boateng, the Health Minister. Prize lot: a day at Silverstone to watch Formula One as guest of Ferrari (raising £6,000). "I don't think in the present circumstances it would be wise for me to bid," suggested Mr Boateng. The kid should go far.*

Peer pressure

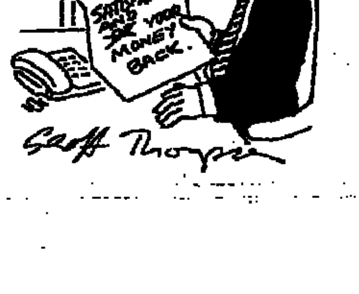
TRUANCY news. The speakers' list in the Upper House ends with a rather surly note which "once again" reminds peers that they should not sneak out of debates in which they have spoken. "A lord who leaves early cannot be expected to be answered by the Minister," it huffs. I hope this is not inspired by the venerable Lord Scarman, who last week scuttled away from a debate pleading "pressing business". Quite how he was pressed, conducting what business, he failed to explain.

● *Bruised egos. Chris de Burgh, an Irish entertainer, is claiming that he was to team up with Elton John for his song,* Candle in the Wind. *"Our managements spoke," he says. "But it would have turned into a competition, and that would have been a mistake." Who for?*

Money talks

HOW well aid money is spent. George Foulkes, having dolled out £41 million to Montserrat, has discovered that some of the money is ending up in the big pockets of a London PR outfit. Profile Corporate Communications has been helping the Montserrat Government to lobby for more dosh.

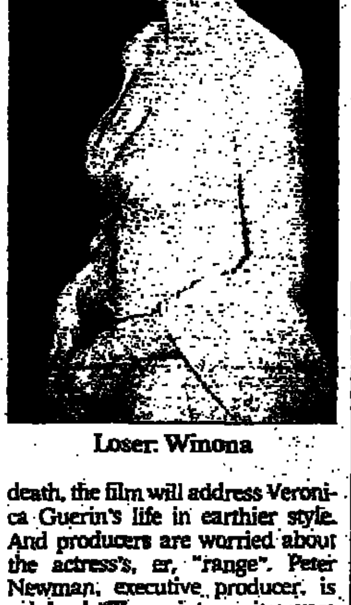
"We keep our eye on what is going on at Westminster for them," says a PR flunky. Profile groomed the Chief Minister, David Brandt, when he came begging and is still lobbying for more help. Ministers at International Development are losing sympathy: "It is a bit much. We can think of better things to spend the money on."


NEW LABOUR GUARANTEE
SATISFACTION OR YOUR MONEY BACK

● *BRAVE behaviour. Bob Marshall-Andrews, the Labour MP, has bombarded Peter "Dome Head" Mandelson, with "unhelpful" written questions about the Millennium Experience. MA says Mandelson's answers are "totally inadequate", remarking: "While I may not be a very good QC, I know when a question has not been answered." He has now tabled a Commons motion, demanding details of the accounts. Several new MPs have made their first rebellious foray by signing the motion. Good luck: Peter makes a good friend but a dangerous enemy.*

Uneasy Ryder

THE fulsome charms of Winona Ryder have worn off on her producers. Ms Ryder, star of minor flicks like *The Crucible*, had been lined up to play Veronica Guerin, the Irish journalist murdered after she probed a little too deeply into the murky underbelly of Dublin. No more. Since the reporter's death, the film will address Veronica Guerin's life in earthier style. And producers are worried about the actress's, er, "range". Peter Newman, executive producer, is subdued: "The script rewrites were not in keeping with Ryder's version of the role."



Loser: Winona

JASPER GERARD

TARGET IRAQ'S ARSENAL

Saddam keeps killer chemicals because he wants to use them

Iraq's latest *confrontation* with the United Nations is the most serious since it was driven out of Kuwait in 1991. President Saddam Hussein is not just testing the bars of the prison windows this time; he is trying to force the main gate. The freedom he seeks is the freedom to rebuild his chemical, biological and nuclear capability, weaponry *forbidden* to Iraq both under international law and, explicitly, under the terms of the Security Council ceasefire resolution. His challenge is to the Security Council's authority to ensure that he does not do so.

Saddam acted at the first sign of disunity in the council. Iraq has persistently obstructed the vital work of Unscom, the UN inspectorate charged with destroying Iraq's illegal arsenals and preventing it from rebuilding them. This time, Saddam has halted its work altogether, by preventing American members of the UN team from *conducting* inspections and threatening to bar them from the country. There could be no clearer, or more important, violation of the 1991 ceasefire resolutions — and no clearer threat to peace.

Every member of the council has acknowledged the gravity of this challenge; all, including Russia, China and France, say *that* on this issue, there can be no compromise. None can be in doubt about the urgency of resuming Unscom's work. They know from Unscom's Australian head, Richard Butler, that since Iraq blocked the *inspectors, it has hidden* or moved equipment and incriminating evidence — including two fermenters capable of producing a biological weapon within a week.

Yet disunity persists and even deepens. The Security Council *cannot* agree to find Iraq in "material breach" of its obligations under the ceasefire because that would automatically lay Iraq open to military action. The latest resolution on the council table does not even repeat the warning of "serious consequences" it issued last month when this confrontation began.

Preserving council unity, as America and Britain have sought to do, is important; but not at the *price of paralysis*. The means matter less than the end, which is and always has been to deprive a regime, which holds international law in contempt, of the capacity to menace peace and security. Saddam's latest act of defiance underlines his determination to retain it.

Some of the post-Gulf assumptions of Western policy need to be rethought. Governments which argued that Saddam's main aim, beyond staying in power, was to obtain the lifting of international sanctions *and resume exports of Iraqi oil* have been proved wrong. Saddam has known since 1991 that whatever Washington's preferences, it would be almost impossible to keep UN sanctions in place once Unscom was able to certify that Iraq's outlawed weapons had been destroyed and that the UN had in place effective monitoring *systems against their future production*. By obstructing Unscom's work, he has already forfeited more than $100 billion in oil sales. By stopping it, he has made certain that the sanctions will continue. The only logical conclusion is that the inspectors were getting close to what he most wanted to hide. And if his priority is protecting these military *secrets, that can only be because he has not* abandoned his aggressive ambitions.

Both America and Britain would prefer not to resort to military action, particularly when this has the backing neither of France or Russia, *nor* of important allies in the Middle East. But all that the past fortnight's diplomacy has constructed is a grandstand for Iraq to trumpet that it retains the power to hold the world to ransom.

Military strikes will not topple Saddam, who will milk them for propaganda. But if they destroyed even part of his store of VX *nerve agents, of the hundreds of tons of* precursor agents that remain unaccounted for and of military and intelligence installations that he has prevented Unscom from scouring, military action would do some of *Unscom's work for it.* Saddam can be left with only two choices: to co-operate with the UN in the destruction of his illegal weapons capability, or see it disabled by other means. Military strikes with that purpose in mind would *not be token gestures; they* should not, in advance, be dismissed as ineffective.

LOCAL SCANDAL

Take early retirement and defraud the taxpayer

Life is so stressful in local government these days. First you have the trouble of persuading your GP to sign you off for early retirement on the ground of ill-health. Then, having won a full pension for the medical condition of merely being in your 50s, you have the strain of reappyling for a consultancy with your old employer. Finally, there is the pain of watching younger employees paying more into the pension fund or of seeing schools, roads and libraries *deteriorate* for lack of cash.

This is no joke. A report on early retirement in local government published by the Audit Commission today uncovers a scandal that deserves to let loose a taxpayer *revolt. Over just five years, the cost of* allowing workers to retire early amounts to a staggering £5.7 billion, enough to clear the capital repairs backlog of every school in England and Wales *and* mend all the roads *that are maintained* by local authorities.

Only 21 per cent of local government workers now retire at 60, the official age. In some councils, the figure is less than 10 per cent. Of those who retire early, over half do so for reasons of ill-health. Yet people are living longer, healthier lives. And the variation between councils confirms that sickness must be little more than an excuse. In some authorities, around 70 per cent of retirements are ostensibly on health grounds; in others, the figure is less than 20 per cent, in line with the private sector.

For a small *short-term gain*, local authorities are condemning themselves to serious long-term pain. The volume of early retirement, says the Audit Commission, "calls into question the long-*term* sustainability" of the local *government* pension fund. Authorities "are mortgaging the future". A scheme that was designed on the assumption that employees would work for 40 years and retire for 20 is now facing a ratio of nearer 30:30, "placing great strain on funds".

How has this been allowed to happen? Councils started to use early retirement as a way of thinning staff without encountering union resistance. Overall employment has fallen by 8 per cent over the past decade. But early retirement has become to be seen as an expectation rather than an exception. The number of non-manual jobs has actually risen by around 15 per cent, yet it is among *these white-collar staff that most* of the early retirement has been seen.

What makes it worse is that authorities do not penalise their staff for retiring early; quite the reverse. Most private sector com*panies pay their early retiring employees* smaller pensions to reflect the cost of paying out for more years. But local councils pay just as much as they would have done at 60 and, what is more, they increase the number of years on which the employees' pension is technically based. This hugely compounds the expense. If a private company were to allow such inroads to be made into its pension fund, particularly on spurious medical grounds, the directors would be sacked. There is no excuse for such negligent stewardship. The scandal is all the more *serious when public money is involved*.

Something has to be done to change the culture. Early retirement should be seen as a last, not a first, resort. If council workers find their jobs stressful, they should be given less stressful work, not put out to grass. Where it cannot be avoided, councillors should insist on being involved in the decision. Already authorities are going to have to divert money from public services to make up the shortfall in their pension funds. Voters ought to take a dim view of the story so far. Councillors who ignore this report *deserve wholesale ejection from office*.

MUSICAL WINE BARS

Drink to the girl at the checkout counter only with thine ears

As our Science Editor reports today, shoppers in supermarkets seem to be influenced in their choice of wines by the music played in the aisles. Rollicking German Bierkeller music overcomes native British resistance to unpronounceable foreign names such as Liebfraumilch. Sales of German wines soar and crates of Blue Nun hit the trolleys faster than from any fancy new advertising campaign. When the trolleys clatter to the sound of plaintive Parisian accordion music, the tunes sung by Maurice Chevalier and Edith *Piaf*, empty are the shelves of French *Château This and That*. The music research group of the psychology department at Leicester University concludes that national music triggers "superordinate knowledge structures".

Where goes the next step for the subliminal salesmen and his programming of music. Airlines already play insipid tunes at landing and take-off to reassure passengers that they are safe in a familiar cocoon. Lifts play Muzak to relieve the anxiety of close proximity to strangers without talking. Commercials already brand products acoustically with tunes. Carmina Burana signals pungent after-shave. Air on a G String sounds a popular cigar.

But if music can *influence the choice of* shoppers as precisely as this new research suggests, supermarkets are going to become variety halls. The Beach Boys can steer the punters to Californian wines, Rolf Harris *with didgeridoo* and wobble-board will market Australian chardonnay, and Boris Christoff, the basso profundissimo, will promote the Bulgarian brand of Bull's Blood with the darkest aria from Boris Godunov.

There is no reason why this subliminal product promotion should stop at wine, even though wine and music are traditional companions. Verdi shall puff pasta. Chopin's *Dog Valse*, representing George Sand's dog running round and round after *its own tail*, might do wonders for the pet food shelves. And *How Much Is That Doggy In The Window?* might do better still. The Anvil Chorus for something in do-it-yourself? The theme of *EastEnders* for soap powders.

But the proof of the musical bargain will be in the drinking. It may take more than *Rule Britannia* or *The Dream of Gerontius* to fill trolleys with English wine.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Dilemmas faced in party funding

From Mr Stuart Barrow

Sir, As you rightly suggest today in your leading article, "A price on politics", calls for state-funded political parties are misguided. Countries such as Italy, where public money has been used to fund parties, are not exactly obvious examples of corruption-free political systems.

Indeed, an Italian *referendum* ditched the funding system in 1993. A subsequent attempt to bring back funding in the *form* of a voluntary contribution from an individual's taxes to a central fund has so far failed: people simply will *not* fund a party with which they disagree. Nor should they have to.

One of the *systems* suggested is based on representation in Parliament: *x* amount of cash for *x* number *of MPs. So Sinn Fein would enjoy my* financial support, despite the moral abhorrence in which I hold their links *with the Provisional IRA. Equally, if* funding is extended to local elections, is it fair that ethnic minorities be *forced to pay for the campaigns of the* BNP, which has proved itself capable of taking council seats?

Opening up the donations *lists* is the only answer. So long as donations are declared, I can decide whether businessmen are buying favours for the future, or simply supporting the present policies of that party. I can then vote accordingly.

The electorate has shown itself capable of deciding when sleaze is too much. It should be trusted to do so in future.

Yours faithfully,
STUART BARROW
(Senior Research Economist),
Adam Smith Institute,
23 Great Smith Street, SW1.
November 12.

From Mr Andrew Turner

Sir, The Labour Party's embarrassment over Bernie Ecclestone's £1 million (reports, November 8, 11, 12) is no argument for funding of political parties by the taxpayer. Some donations may, of course, *dry up* if they are shown not to buy influence. Far more will cease if giving carries with it *public imputation of corrupt intent*.

The public naming of donors to political parties does not ensure their *even-handed* treatment by decision-makers. More likely they will bend over backwards to be shown to be fair. The use of a blind trust, ensuring that ministers never know who has supported the cause or why, provides a vehicle for continued giving to support policies with which one agrees — but not to purchase changes which one craves.

A single blind trust, with trustees nominated by all parties, could channel funds to the parties of the donors' choice while protecting party leaders *from knowledge which might affect* their decisions.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW TURNER,
Isle of Wight Conservative
Association,
58 The Mall, Carisbrooke Road,
Newport, Isle of Wight.
November 12.

From Mr John E. Strafford

Sir, Your leading article of November 11, "Party prix", is right to point out *that "the difference between* £5,000 and £8-10 million is critical". In my evidence to the Home Affairs Committee on *the funding of political* parties in 1993 I stated that there is clearly a level at which financial support for a political party becomes influential. A limit should be set (say £100,000) and should not be allowed to be exceeded.

To offset the possible loss of income to the parties, tax relief on membership subscriptions should be introduced. Relief set at, say, £30 would encourage members to increase their subscriptions; in the case of the Labour and Conservative Parties each could increase their income by £5 million per annum if their average subscription amounted to the £30 on which relief was given.

A necessary condition would be that the parties were democratically accountable to their members, so that the members could ensure that moneys raised were properly spent.

A side effect would be that the parties would put more emphasis on increasing their membership. That *must be good for democracy.*

Yours faithfully,
JOHN E. STRAFFORD
(Chairman, Campaign for
Conservative Party Democracy),
Perama,
Fulmer Road,
Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire.
November 11.

Choc horror

From Dr Oliver Impey

Sir, As it was an Englishman, Sir Hans Sloane (1660-1753), who invented and named milk chocolate, surely we should continue to call it that (letters, November 3, 7, 11)? (See Arthur MacGregor (ed.), *Sir Hans Sloane, Collector, Scientist, Antiquary; Founding Father of the British Museum*, British Museum Press, 1994, pp. 15, 16.)

Yours faithfully,
OLIVER IMPEY,
Department of Eastern Art,
Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.
November 11.

Aid as a means to eliminate poverty

From the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for International Development

Sir, Your leading article of November 6, on the international development White Paper *Eliminating World Poverty*, suggests you have failed to understand that the development agenda has moved on since the old ideologies that took hold in the 1980s.

All serious people agree that the "trickle-down" theory of economic growth did not deliver equitable or sustainable economic growth. Even the International Monetary Fund recognises this: its Managing Director's *recent speech* in Hong Kong (report, Business, September 22) demonstrated his commitment to "high-quality growth that results in ... greater equality of economic opportunity". Economic growth that benefits the poor is the *only* way to achieve long-lasting sustainable growth and to achieve our aims of eradicating *poverty.*

Your scepticism about achieving the international development targets id*entified in the White Paper is also* misplaced. They come from the great UN conferences of recent years and are considered *achievable* by the OECD.

You are right to point out that aid alone cannot achieve the development targets. But that is precisely why *Eliminating World Poverty* is not just a "White Paper on aid" as you suggest but embraces all government policies which impact on developing countries, including trade, agriculture and investment. Our aim is to mobilise political will by setting out a clear and achievable strategy.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE FOULKES,
Department for International
Development,
94 Victoria Street, SW1.
November 10.

From Mr O. S. Knowles

Sir, Your leading article today quite rightly points out that foreign aid can be only a marginal factor in relieving *world poverty, and that raising over*all income through rapid growth increases the choices available to every*body.*

However, increasing overall income will not increase per capita incomes if the rate of population growth outstrips the rate of overall *income growth*.

In the years shortly after independence, Kenya managed to achieve the very respectable rate *in overall* economic growth of over 7 per cent per annum and received foreign aid of £14 per head per annum, the highest rate in the world. The result was a population explosion with population growth reaching rates that the statisticians had thought impossible. Something similar happened in the Ivory Coast.

World income growth without curbs on population growth will never solve the problem of world poverty.

Yours faithfully,
O. S. KNOWLES
(Acting Permanent Secretary,
Ministry of Finance, Kenya, 1966).
9 Britwell Road, Watlington, Oxford.
November 6.

From Mrs Julia Häusermann

Sir, Your leading article wrongly states that Clare Short "has invented a *whole new series of universal 'human* rights' ".

In fact, the White Paper on development properly *reflects the obligations* of states, including the UK, under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and subsequent international law. The declaration was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1948, and was given the force of law in two international covenants.

Each of the particular human rights which you refer to as "invented" — on living conditions, social security, conditions of work and family life — are protected by the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, to which the UK and a further 135 states are party.

Far from "muddling goals with *rights", the Secretary of State* has taken a brave step towards the implementation of the UK's international *legal obligations. She is to be con*gratulated. Securing the enjoyment by people living in poverty of their fundamental human rights is essential to the elimination of poverty.

Yours sincerely,
JULIA HAUSERMANN (President),
The International Movement
of Rights and Humanity,
65a Swinton Street, WC1.
November 6.

Crime and repentance

From Mr M. E. E. Wood

Sir, I *was impressed by a report on* BBC2 last Saturday concerning the workings of South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, highlighting a procedure from which our own justice system might well benefit.

It was a painful and cathartic confrontation between terrorists and a husband whose wife they had ruthlessly gunned down during a church service which got my attention. Repentance was expressed and forgiveness offered in a most moving way.

If a similar procedure was adopted by British courts for certain offences, such as mugging, burglaries and the like, would this not serve to bring *home to young criminals in particular* the devastating effect of their actions, as well as helping to decrease some of *the pressures caused by the overpopu*lation of our prisons?

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL WOOD
(Director),
ROPE
(Relief for Oppressed
People Everywhere),
12 Church Street,
Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire.
November 3.

Meningococcal vaccine

From Dr Clive Studd

Sir, The recent tragic deaths of three undergraduates from meningococcal septicaemia (report, November 4; *further report, later editions*, November 12) highlight the trend of increasing numbers of deaths from this disease.

The Chief Medical Officer, writing to all doctors in *CMO's Update 16, talks of raising* "awareness of the signs and symptoms of meningococcal infection", although he offers no *immediate prospect of a change in* Department of Health policy on active immunisation of freshers.

My experience of such life-threatening cases in adults during the last 16 years as a director of intensive care is that until three years ago these cases were incredibly uncommon. In the last three years the incidence has rocketed and three quarters have been of the group C.

Meningococcal vaccines for group C are readily available and are routinely offered to travellers to certain countries such as Gabon and Senegal. These vaccines offer 90 per cent protection of two to three years.

I suspect the risk of acquiring meningococcal infection in the UK is now not significantly lower than travelling abroad. Therefore could I suggest that in the absence of an appropriate national policy undergraduates request immunisation from their GP, if necessary on the pretext that they have future exotic travel plans.

Yours faithfully,
CLIVE STUDD
(Director of Intensive Care,
Worcester Royal Infirmary).
The Manor House,
Clifton-on-Teme, Worcestershire.
November 7.

Lottery and charity

From the Director of Defeating Deafness

Sir, Miss Claire Ward, MP (letter, November 11), describes as "dis*ingenuous*" statements that charities will be deprived of up to £100 million per year if rapid-draw lotteries such a Pronto! are banned.

I would suggest that it is Miss Ward who is being less than transparent on this issue, given her statement that, whilst Pronto! will give "only 20 per cent" to charities the National Lottery pays out "twice as much to good causes and in tax". This 40 per cent actually breaks down as follows — 12 per cent to the Government in lottery duty and 28 per cent to the Distribution Fund. Given that the Distribution Fund moneys are split equally between five funds — sports, arts, *heritage, millennium and the char*ities board — charities of the sort to be supported by Pronto! are receiving a mere 5.6p from every £1 National Lottery ticket sold — less than half the duty being collected by government.

Yours faithfully,
VIVIENNE MICHAEL,
Director, Defeating Deafness,
330-332 Gray's Inn Road, WC1.
November 13.

Harrods personnel

From Mr Mark Clements

Sir, I wonder whether either Sir Gordon Downey or members of the Select Committee on Standards and Privileges (*report*, November 5) *saw your* report (November 4) relating to racial discrimination at Harrods.

*Ian Lamb, chairman of the indus*trial tribunal hearing the case, commented that:

> There was an act of blatant racial discrimination by a very senior personnel officer. There was lying and deceit on the part of Harrods personnel to conceal the act. There was dishonest testimony by Harrods personnel.

Yours faithfully,
MARK CLEMENTS,
The Beetling Mill,
Stormontfield, Perth.
November 5.

One of those jobs

From Mr Ernie Preston

Sir, Yesterday, having intended for some time to get around to doing it one day, I dismantled and removed the blackout blinds from the windows of my house.

Yours faithfully,
E. PRESTON,
21 Park Grove,
Knaresborough, North Yorkshire.
November 11.

Business letters, page 29

Letters should carry a daytime *telephone number*. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.
e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

Better for the law to keep its wig on?

From His Honour George Dobry, QC

Sir, I spent a memorable day yesterday in Luxembourg watching proceedings in the Court of First Instance and in the Court of Justice — a gratifying experience. Judges of so many nationalities seemed so much like British judges, *avocats* like British barristers, courts like modern British courts. I observed their dress with interest — black gowns, some with gold tassels: in one court there was an English barrister in a wig. It looked unnecessary and incongruous.

In 1946, I exchanged my Polish Air Force uniform for a wig and gown. I did not want to be a lawyer all that much, but the wig and the stage effect of *English courts* had an irresistible attraction. Recently, I helped to bring over here many Polish lawyers who *admire English courts. They are dif*ferent; I don't think they care about horsehair.

The Lord Chancellor's well balanced view about costume (report and article, November 7) deserves support. *It is not trivial. It is about the* choice between living in the past and in today's Europe.

Yours sincerely,
GEORGE DOBRY (Chairman,
British (Cambridge University)
English Law Centre,
Warsaw University, 1992-96).
4 Breams Building, EC4.
November 7.

From Mr L. L. Blake

Sir, It is typical of new Labour that Lord Irvine of Lairg should wish to exchange the glories of English judicial garb for the undertakers' night-shirts worn by the Italian judiciary. More ominous, however, is his desire to form a "Justice Department", thus *ensuring that* English judges, who are now independent, become civil servants like their continental counter*parts.*

Are we being set up for a total European takeover?

Yours truly,
L. L. BLAKE,
271 Lonsdale Road, SW13.
November 7.

From Mr Denis Young

Sir, In the same way that justice must not only be done but must also be seen to be done, so should judges not only have authority but also be seen to have it.

Many years ago, when I was a witness in a criminal trial, I thought *how upset the defendant might have* been if sent down by a judge who, bare-headed, was almost the double of *Albert Steptoe. That is why the Lord* Chancellor should not be put out by a tradition that, in his opinion, makes judges look "old-fashioned, out of touch and self-satisfied", but should instead, as they say, keep his wig on.

Yours faithfully,
DENIS YOUNG,
4 The Vineyards, Bath.
November 7.

From Colonel David Whitaker

Sir, If the Lord Chancellor intends to *rename* his department the Justice Department perhaps he will, at the same time, arrange that the minister *in charge of it is an elected politician* and not, as is longstanding practice, a barrister.

The Lord Chancellor could continue as Speaker of the House of Lords, but the public would surely be more confident that changes to the justice system were made for their benefit rather than for that of the legal profession.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID WHITAKER,
The Dower House,
Chawton, nr Alton, Hampshire.
November 7.

Turkish question

From Mr Stewart C. Maugham

Sir, Clearly if Kemal Ataturk is still, through his successors, able to pre*vent any criticism* of himself (letter, November 10), then he *is* the most influential person this century and we *should let him have the wretched Time* magazine award.

Yours faithfully,
STEWAKT MAUGHAM,
31 Holly Park Gardens, N3.
scmaugham@lineone.net
November 10.

Proceed with care

From Mrs Sylvia Ray

Sir, Words of wisdom accompany food as well as flowers (letter, November 11). I find among the instructions on a Marks & Spencer bread and butter pudding:

Important. Take Care. Product will be hot after heating.

Yours faithfully,
SYLVIA A. H. RAY,
The Rectory,
Exford, Minehead, Somerset.

From Mr Chris Ancliff

Sir, I have just bought a tub of garlic *in our local supermarket with a* picture on the lid of a solitary clove of garlic. The wording underneath reads: "Serving suggestion".

Yours faithfully,
C. J. ANCLIFF,
121 Chestnut Grove, SW12.
November 12.

هكذا من الاهل

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 12: The President of the Republic of Yemen visited The Queen this morning.

His Excellency Mr Lino-Sima Ekua Avomo was received in audience by Her Majesty and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador from the Republic of Equatorial Guinea to the Court of St James's.

Madame Maura Abaga Edu was also received by The Queen.

Mr Robertson Young (Deputy Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present.

The Bishop of Winchester (the Right Reverend Michael Scott-Joynt) was received by Her Majesty.

The Queen, Patron, this evening attended a Concert, dedicated to the memory of Diana, Princess of Wales, in aid of the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, and the Royal Academy of Music, at the Royal Festival Hall, London SE1, and was received by the Chief Executive, South Bank Centre (Mr Nicholas Snowman), the Chairman, the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street (Sir Brian Hill) and the Chairman, Royal Academy of Music (Mr Guy Whalley).

The Duke of Edinburgh, Honorary Life Member, British Sub-Aqua Club, this morning presented the 1996 Duke of Edinburgh's Prize at Buckingham Palace.

His Royal Highness, President, the English-Speaking Union of the Commonwealth, this afternoon presented the 1997 Duke of Edinburgh English Language Book Competition Awards and the English-Speaking Union English Language Awards and afterwards chaired a meeting of the English-Speaking Union Language Committee at Buckingham Palace.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron, Institute of Management, this evening attended the 1997 National and Gold Medal Award Dinner at the Inter-Continental Hotel, London W1.

November 12: The Princess Royal, Patron, the Basic Skills Agency, this morning attended the Annual Conference at Glaziers' Hall, Montague Close, London Bridge, London SE1.

Her Royal Highness, President, Save the Children Fund, this afternoon attended a Reception and Presentation for Trusts and Key Donors at the South African High Commission, South Africa House, Trafalgar Square, London WC2.

The Princess Royal, Patron, the National Autistic Society, later attended a seminar on "Jobs for People with Autism and Asperger Syndrome" at Midland Bank, Poultry, London EC2.

Her Royal Highness, Chancellor, this evening attended the Foundation Day Dinner and Honorary Degree ceremony at the University of London, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1.

CLARENCE HOUSE
November 12: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother today received representatives of the Advisory Body for Social Services Catering to mark "National Meals-on-Wheels Day".

Her Majesty was entertained at Luncheon by the Canadian High Commissioner (His Excellency Roy MacLaren) at 3 Grosvenor Square.

Mrs Michael Gordon-Lennox and Sir Alastair Aird were in attendance.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
November 12: The Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall, this morning held a meeting of The Prince's Council at Buckingham Gate, London SW1.

His Royal Highness, Chairman, the Royal Collection Trust, this afternoon chaired a meeting at St James's Palace.

The Prince of Wales, President, the British Horse Society Jubilee Year, later attended a Reception at St James's Palace to celebrate the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Society.

His Royal Highness, President, The Prince of Wales Business Leaders Forum, this evening held a Dinner for business leaders and representatives of international organisations at St James's Palace.

YORK HOUSE
November 12: The Duke of Kent, Patron, Ski Club of Great Britain, this afternoon presented the Pery Medal at the White House, Church Road, London SW19.

The Duchess of Kent, President, NCH Action for Children, this afternoon visited the Longhill Estate, Shannon Road, Hull, East Riding of Yorkshire.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
November 12: Princess Alexandra, President, this morning attended the Town and Country Conference of the Children's Country Holidays Fund at Westminster Cathedral Hall, Ambrosden Avenue, London SW1.

Her Royal Highness, Deputy Honorary Colonel of the Royal Yeomanry, this afternoon received Lieutenant Colonel David Bone upon relinquishing command of the Regiment and Lieutenant Colonel Robert Sutcliffe upon assuming the appointment.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen will hold an investiture at Buckingham Palace at 11.00 and will give a luncheon for Mrs Mary Robinson, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and Mr Robinson at 1.15. The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will attend a gala reception at the Victoria and Albert Museum at 6.30, in the presence of the King of Sweden, to mark the exhibition *Carl and Karin Larsson: Creators of the Swedish Style*.

The Duke of Edinburgh, patron and twelfth man, will present the Lord's Taverners Trophy at Buckingham Palace, at noon; as Chancellor, Cambridge University, will attend the CBI's luncheon for the Cambridge Foundation at the Mandarin Oriental Hyde Park Hotel at 12.45; and as Colonel, will preside at a meeting of the Grenadier Guards Regimental Council, Buckingham Palace at 4.00.

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother will visit the Royal Star and Garter Home at Richmond, Surrey at 3.15.

The Prince of Wales, as president, The Prince's Trust, will present the Prince's Trust-Bro Awards at St James's Palace at 1.30; as president, Royal College of Music, will present the annual honorary degrees and awards at the Royal College of Music, Prince Consort Road, London SW7 at 3.00; and will attend the British Indian Golden Jubilee dinner, to mark 50 years of India's Independence, at Grosvenor House at 7.45.

The Duke of York will attend a dinner given by the Army Board in the State Apartments, Royal Hospital, Chelsea, at 7.45.

The Princess Royal, president, the Princess Royal Trust for Carers, will attend the Carers Together Day, Diamond Centre, Nene Park, Irthlingborough, Northamptonshire, at 10.30; will open the new Daventry International Rail Freight Terminal (Railport) and Eddie Stobart building, Daventry, at 12.30; and as president, Save the Children Fund, will give a private appeal dinner, Buckingham Palace, at 7.50.

The Duke of Kent, chairman, National Electronics Council, will attend the Mountbatten Memorial lecture, Institution of Electrical Engineers, Savoy Place, at 11.50.

Princess Alexandra will visit Ravenswood village, Crowthorne, Berkshire at 11.15.

Buckingham Palace luncheon

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh gave a luncheon party at Buckingham Palace yesterday. The guests were:

Baroness Flather (EU Commission on Racism), Mrs Tracy Jones (Inland Revenue Mobile Unit Customer Services, Cardiff), Mr Roger Black (athlete), Mr Christopher Howes (Chief Executive and Second Commissioner, The Crown Estate), Professor Sir Alec Jeffreys, FRS, (Wolfson Research Professor of the Royal Society, Leicester University), Mr David Quarmby (chairman, British Tourist Authority), Mr John Slater, Governor, HM Prison, Ranby) and the Very Rev Michael Till (Dean of Winchester).

Dinners

Foundation for Science and Technology
Lord Jenkin of Roding, Chairman of the Council of the Foundation for Science and Technology, presided at a lecture and dinner discussion held last night at the Royal Society. Mr Geoffrey Hoon, MP, Lord Justice Brooke and Professor Richard Susskind were the speakers. Among others present were:

Lord and Lady Butterworth, Lord Craig of Radley, Lord Cuckney, Baroness David, Baroness Hilton of Eggardon, Lord Justice Otton, Lord Saville of Newdigate, Lord Taylor of Blackburn, Lord Taylor of Gryfe, Sir Geoffrey Dear, Sir Ronald Halstead, Sir Robin Ibbs, Sir John Mason, Dame Barbara Mills, QC, Sir Richard Morris, Sir Brian Neill, Sir Brian Smedley, Mr Tam Dalyell, MP, Ms Cheryl Gillan, MP, Dr Ashok Kumar, MP, and Mr David Courtley.

Marylebone Cricket Club
Mr Colin Ingleby-Mackenzie, President of MCC, was in the Chair at a Club Dinner held in the Committee Dining Room at Lord's last night. Mr Mike Gatting, former captain of England and Middlesex CCC, proposed the toast to "Cricket", and the President responded.

University of Bristol
Sir Michael Angus, Leader of the *Campaign for Resource* at the University of Bristol, in the presence of Sir Jeremy Morse, Chancellor, Mr Moger Woolley, Chairman of Council and Sir John Kingman, Vice Chancellor, presided last night at a dinner for Patrons and friends of the University held at the Institution of Civil Engineers, London, to mark the sixth anniversary of the launch of the *Campaign for Resource*. Guests included:

The Countess of Limerick, CBE, Dame Paddy Ridsdale, Dr Barbara Rashbass, Mr and Mrs William Hobhouse, Dr Mohamed Salleh Ismail, Mr Saburo Kimura and Professor Gordon McVie.

Since the *Campaign for Resource* was launched an investment exceeding £45 million has been raised for the University.

The Association of Corporate Treasurers
The President of the Association of Corporate Treasurers, Mr Paul Spencer, Group Finance Director, Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance Group, was the host at the Association's Annual Dinner last night, held at the Grosvenor House Hotel. Lord Simpson of Dunkeld, Managing Director, The General Electric Company, was the Guest Speaker. Mr Gareth Jones, Chairman of The Association and Managing Director, Treasury & Wholesale Banking Abbey National, also spoke.

General Dental Council
The President, Dr Margaret Seward and members of the General Dental Council held a Dinner on November 11, 1997, at 37 Wimpole Street, London. The principal guest was Mr Alan Milburn, MP, Minister for Health.

National Liberal Club
Professor Earl Russell, FBA, was the guest of honour and speaker at the annual dinner or the National Liberal Club held last night at the club. The Bishop of Chichester, president, was in the chair. Lord Steel of Aikwood also spoke. Among those present were:

Countess Russell, Baroness Robson of Kiddington, Lady Banks, Lord Rochester, Judge and Mrs John Baker and Mr David Hunter, club chairman, and Mrs Hunter.

Canning House
Baroness Hooper, President of the Hispanic and Luso Brazilian Council, was the host at dinner held last night at Canning House in honour of the Heads of Mission of the Latin American and Iberian countries. Lord Clinton-Davis, Minister for Trade, was the guest of honour.

London Goodenough Trust for Overseas Graduates
Mr Julien Wathen, Governor of the London Goodenough Trust for Overseas Graduates, and Major-General Timothy Toyne Sewell, director, received the guests at the annual medical faculty dinner held last night at Mecklenburgh Square. Dr Thomas Stuttaford was the speaker.

Service dinner

9th/12th Royal Lancers
Brigadier H.W.K. Pye, Colonel of the 9th/12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales's) presided at the annual officers' dinner held last night at the Cavalry and Guards Club.

CHRIS HARRIS

Karen Christian and Flight Lieutenant Euan Duncan were among the winners at yesterday's People of the Year awards presented at a luncheon at the London Hilton on Park Lane yesterday. Miss Christian, from Southampton, saved the life of a pensioner who phoned her by mistake after collapsing at home. Flight Lieutenant Duncan, based at Cranwell, Lincolnshire, rescued a climber who suffered a severe heart attack 19,000ft up Mount Everest

Memorial services

Dr William Cole
A service of thanksgiving for the life of Dr William Cole was held yesterday in Southwark Cathedral. Canon Roy White, Vice-Provost, officiated, assisted by the Rev John Robson, Chaplain of The Queen's Chapel of the Savoy, who led the prayers. Edward Grint and Mr Michael Wakelam read the lessons. Sir David Lumsden gave an address.

Mr Charles Cole, grandson, the chapel choir and the choir of St Olave's Grammar School, Orpington, Kent, took part in the service.

Mr Vincent Hanna
A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Mr Vincent Hanna, broadcaster, was held yesterday at St Bride's, Fleet Street. Canon John Oates officiated, assisted by Father Michael Seed, Ecumenical Officer, Westminster Cathedral. Lord Fitt, father-in-law, read the lesson. Dr Mo Mowlam, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, read *How Many Different Lengths of Time?* by Brian Patten, Miss Jenny Abramsky, Director of Continuous News, BBC, read from the *Collected Poems* of Louis McNeice and Miss Sinead Hanna, daughter, read from a sports column. Mr Andrew Marr, Editor of *The Independent*, gave an address and Mr Frank Hanna, brother, paid tribute. Miss Emily Hanna, daughter, sang during the service.

The Secretary of State for Social Security and Minister for Women attended. Among others present were:

Mrs Hanna (widow), Mrs Ida Hanna (mother), Mrs Barbara Connolly (sister), Mr and Mrs Bruce St John Blake (brother-in-law and sister), Mr and Mrs S Hall, Mr and Mrs Paul Gibb and Mr and Mrs M Millner (brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law), Mrs Frank Hanna and Mrs G Allen (sisters-in-law), Mr Martin Hanna, Ms Tara Hanna, Dr and Mrs B Collagen, Mr Aloysius Mahomed, Mr and Mrs R O'Neil, Mr and Mrs John Gibbs.

Sir Roger Cary (a consultant to the Director General of the BBC) and Lady Cary with Mr Tony Hall (chief executive, News and Current Affairs), Ms Anna Carragher (head of broadcast, Northern Ireland), Mr Nigel Chapman (controller English regions), Mr Charlie Courtauld (Editor, *A Week in Politics*) with Mr Mark Gregory (deputy editor), Mr Ben Hamilton, Mr Tom Happold and other members of the programme; Mr R Sharpe (5 Live BBC), Mr Pat Loughrey, Mr Ron Neil, Miss Sue Robertson, Mr David Sells, Mr Robin Oakley, Mr Peter Kenyatta, Mr Tony Maddox, Mr and Mrs Mark Mardell, Mr Jonathan James-Moore, Mr and Mrs Jim Naughtie and other members of the BBC.

Lord Healey, CH, and Lady Healey, Baroness Denton of Wakefield, Mrs Virginia Bottomley, MP, Mr Michael Foot, the Hon Bernard Jenkin, MP, the Hon Peter Jay, the Hon J Melville Williams, QC, Sir Richard Knowles.

Mr John Foster (general secretary, National Union of Journalists) with other members of the union; Professor Ivor Crewe (Vice-Chancellor, University of Essex), Mr Ivor Gabor (Goldsmiths' College), Mr Peter Riddell (*The Times*), Mr Steve Richards (*New Statesman*), Ms Chrissy Iley (*The Sunday Times*), Mr Simon Heffer (*Daily Mail*), Mr Peter Hitchens and Mr John Craig (*The Express*), Mr Alan Rusbridger (Editor, *The Guardian*) with Mr Frank Keating and Mr Hugh McIlvanney; Mr Andrew Neil (*The European and The Scotsman*), Mr Ellis O'Hanlon (*Independent on Sunday*), Ms Suzanne Breen (*The Irish Times*), Ms Carol Haydon (Channel Four Television), Mr Jon Snow (Channel Four News), Mr Clive Jones (chief executive, Carlton UK Television), Ms Alison Gray (Writer's Guild), Mr Roy Lockett and Ms Christina Driver (BECTU), Ms Linda R Johnston (Francis Hanna & Company), Mr Derek Lewis (Derek Lewis Associates), Mr Geoffrey Martin (head of the representation in the UK and External Affairs, Commission of the European Communities), Mr Ralph Bernard (GWR Group), Mr Roger Bolton (Roger Bolton Productions), Mr Ian McGarry (British Actors' Equity Association), Mr John Monks (TUC), Mr Robert Parker (Thames Valley FM), Mr John Perkins and Mr Stewart Purvis (ITN), Mr Peter Weil (Mentorn Barraclough Carey).

Mr John Barsby, Mr Robin Barry-King, Mr John Bennett, Ms Jane Bonham Carter, Mr Colin Bourne, Mr John Boyd, Mr and Mrs John Bridcut, Mr Don Brind, Miss Sally Brindle, Mr Mike Brook, Ms Fiona Chesterton, Ms Rachel Clark, Mr David Coleman, Mr and Mrs William Birtles, Mr Menzies Campbell, MP, Mrs Christine Crawley, MEP, Mr David Dickinson, Miss Anna Healey, Mr Denis McShane, MP, Mr Steven Norris, Mr Ian Paisley, Jr, Ms Carol Savage.

Mr Roger Stott, MP, Mr Jon Trickett, MP, Mr Harry Conroy, Ms Jane Cottave, Mr Jo Cranley, Mr Marcel D'Argy-Smith, Mr Alan Drewery, Mr Jacob Ecclestone, Dr and Mrs Jerry Flack, Ms Anna Ford, Ms Susanne Franks, Mr John Fray, Miss Rosalind Furlong, Mr John Gan, Mr Roy Greenslade, Ms Catherine Gildea, Mr Tom Happold, Mr A Healy, Mr Tony Hearn, Mr John Humphrys, Mr and Mrs Rudi Jagersbacher, Ms Joy Johnson, Mr Tom Kelly, Mr Patrick Kinsella, Mr Anthony Lee.

Mr and Mrs John Lappin, Miss Ann Lapping, Ms Ann Leslie, Mr James Mallet, Mr and Mrs Mark Mardell, Mr and Mrs Peter Maylem, Mr and Mrs D MacCormick, Mr and Mrs Leonard Miall, Mr Kenneth Morgan, Ms Fran Morrison, Mr Gary Morton, Ms Jean Muir, Mr Dermot Murnaghan, Mr Michael Napier, Mr and Mrs Robert Norris, Mr Michael O'Gorman, Ms Irene Ozga, Mr Jeremy Paxman, Ms Gillian Reynold, Miss Sue Robertson, Ms Anne Robinson, Mr Michael Rubenstein.

Mr Alan Sapper, Mr David Sells, Ms Mary Riddell, Mr Peter Snow, Ms Julia Somerville, Mr Roger Taylor, Mr Richard Tait, Mr John Shute, Mr Giles Smith, Mr Bernard Tate, Mr Robin Thompson, Mr John Underwood, Mr and Mrs Ken Uprichard, Mrs Brian Wenham, Mr John M Williams, Mr Graham Williams, Mr John Willis and many other friends and former colleagues.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: St Augustine of Hippo, Tagaste, Numidia (modern Tunisia), 354; Sir John Moore, general, Glasgow, 1761; Robert Louis Stevenson, novelist, Edinburgh, 1850.

DEATHS: Nell Gwyn, actress and mistress of King Charles II, London, 1687; William Etty, painter, York, 1849; Gioacchino Rossini, composer, Passy, France, 1868; Camille Pissarro, painter, Paris, 1903; Vittorio de Sica, film director, Paris, 1974.

The telegraphic service between London and Paris began operating, 1851.

General Charles de Gaulle was elected President of the French Provisional Government, 1945.

Luncheons

HM Government
Mr George Robertson, Secretary of State for Defence, was the host at a luncheon given by Her Majesty's Government yesterday at Lancaster House in honour of General Ali Abdullah Saleh, President of Yemen.

RADAR
Sir Peter de la Billière was the guest speaker at the People of the Year luncheon held yesterday at the London Hilton on Park Lane. Lord Tugendhat presided. Mr Bert Massie, Director of RADAR (the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation) attended. The winners for 1997 are:

The Australian Defence Team, the British Lions, Miss Karen Christian, Flight Lieutenant Euan Duncan, Mrs Christine Evans, Mr Anthony Fitzpatrick, Mr Peter Goss, Mr Chris Moon, Ms Christina Noble and Sir Peter O'Sullevan.

Sir Lincoln Hallinan

Requiem Mass in memory of Sir Lincoln Hallinan will be held at the Church of St Mary of the Angels, Cardiff, on Saturday, December 6, 1997, at noon.

Birthdays today

Sir Ewart Bell, civil servant, 73; the Most Rev George Carey, Archbishop of Canterbury, 62; Sir John Coles, diplomat, 60; Dr Phyllis Epps, Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, 100; Miss Whoopi Goldberg, actress, 42; Lord Jacobs, 66; the Rev Patricia Johns, former Headmistress, St Mary's School, Wantage, 64; Mr Kenneth Kemp, former chairman, Smith and Nephew, 76; Baroness Lestor of Eccles, 66; Major-General J.D. Lunt, 80; Mr John B. McGuckian, chairman, Ulster Television, 58; Dr Basil Morson, clinical pathologist, 76; Admiral Sir William O'Brien, 81; Miss Alexandra Shulman, Editor, British *Vogue*, 40; Sir Donald Thompson, former MP, 66; Sir Miles Walker, former Chief Minister, Isle of Man Government, 57.

Meeting

Rowland Hill Fund
The Lord Mayor opened the annual meeting of the Rowland Hill Fund held yesterday at the Mansion House. Sir Rowland Whitehead, chairman, presided and presented the annual report. Sir Michael Heron, Chairman of the Post Office, Mr Alan Johnson, MP, Mr Richard Osmond and Mr Geoff Cresswell, trustee, also spoke.

Reception

Board of Deputies of British Jews
The German Ambassador was the guest of honour at a reception given by the Board of Deputies of British Jews held yesterday in London. Professor Eric Moonman, vice-president, welcomed the guests. Sir Sigmund Sternberg was the host.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R.S.C. Brown and Miss L.A. Sandom
The engagement is announced between Richard, younger son of Mr T.J.de C. Brown and the late Mrs Brown, of Okehampton, and Lindsey, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Kent Sandom, of Northwood, Middlesex.

Mr J.C.S. Chenevix-Trench and Miss M.L. Ward
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, youngest son of the late Mr and Mrs Anthony Chenevix-Trench, and Lucy, younger daughter of Mr Gerald Ward and the Hon Lady Morrison.

Mr P.J. Cluely and Miss K.S. Bates
The engagement is announced between Paul, youngest son of Dr and Mrs A. Paul Cluely, of Camberley, Surrey, and Kay, daughter of Mr and Mrs William J.G. Bates, of Stone, Staffordshire.

Mr R.A. Jacques and Miss S.C. Jolly
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Jacques, of Tunbridge Wells, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Jolly, of Oxford.

Mr D. Johnston and Miss J.M. Blezard
The engagement is announced between Duncan, son of Mr and Mrs D.S. Johnston, of Umberleigh, Devon, and Joanna, daughter of Mr and Mrs R.C. Blezard, of Brockenhurst, Hampshire.

Mr B.M. Laidler and Señorita C.M. Alegria Chavez
The engagement is announced between Benjamin, son of Mrs Alexandra Laidler, of Royal Circus, Edinburgh, and Mr Martin Laidler, of Richmond, Surrey, and Carmen Monica, daughter of Señora Carmen Monica Chavez vda Alegria, of Vina del Mar, Chile.

Mr J.P.A. Kitson and Miss J.H. Coulton
The engagement is announced, from Sydney, Australia, between Jerome, younger son of Mr and Mrs P. Kitson, of Chilmark Manor Farm, Wiltshire, and Juliet, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs B.L. Coulton, of Knowle, Warwickshire.

Mr D.B. Leadsom and Miss A.M.A. Jennings
The engagement is announced between Dominic, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Brian Leadsom, of Chobham, Surrey, and Alison, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Neville Jennings, of Johannesburg, South Africa.

Mr W.T.R. Meacock and Miss C.M. Kelley
The engagement is announced between William, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Meacock, of Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, and Colleen, daughter of Mr and Mrs Stephen Kelley, of Fanwood, New Jersey, USA.

Mr D.B. Roberts and Miss H.M. Casstles
The engagement is announced between David, elder son of Mr and Mrs Christopher Roberts, of Horndean, Hampshire, and Helen, only daughter of Mr and Mrs John Casstles, of Pinner, Middlesex.

Mr J.R. van Heeckeren and Miss D. Sorrell-Straussler
The engagement is announced between Jan, eldest son of W.R. Baron van Heeckeren and Mrs R. Dive, and Dido, daughter of the late Mr N.P. Sorrell-Straussler and of Mrs N.P. Sorrell-Straussler.

Mr J.W. Woodthorpe and Miss C.S. Jackson
The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs John Woodthorpe, of Woldingham, Surrey, and Catharine, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Hellings, of Reigate, Surrey.

High Sheriffs

The following have been nominated for High Sheriff:

ENGLAND (except Cornwall, Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Lancashire)

Bedfordshire: G R D Farr, Luton; C R Kilroy, Oakley; T F Wells, Felmersham.
Berkshire: A R Wiseman, Windsor; M J D Todhunter, Wantage, Oxfordshire; J H L Puxley, Newbury.
Buckinghamshire: E R Verney, Middle Claydon, Buckingham; Sir William McAlpine, Fawley, near Henley-on-Thames; M H T Jourdan, Long Crendon, Aylesbury.
Cambridgeshire: R B Bamford, Ely; W H Proby, Elton, Peterborough; A F Pemberton, Trumpington.
Cheshire: M A T Trevor-Barnston, Crewe by Farndon, Chester; M D A Clarke, Malpas; S Chantler, Tilston, Malpas.
City of Bristol: E H Webber, Bristol; J R Pool, Clifton; C St J Hartnell, Clifton.
Cumbria: S P Pease, Kirkby Lonsdale, Carnforth; A I Bullough, Walton, Brampton; Lady Hothfield, Appleby.
Derbyshire: G R W Turbutt, Higham, Alfreton; D R Penrose, Bakewell; Mrs M J Boissier, Idridgehay, Belper.
Devon: Lady Clinton, Heanton Satchville, near Okehampton; Sir Simon J Day, Ivybridge; Major R C Rayner, Ashcombe Tower, nr Dawlish.
Dorset: Commander P G Gregson, Corscombe, Dorchester; A G Yeatman, Corfe Mullen; M J A Bond, Corfe Castle.
Durham: Sir William Gray, Eggleston, Barnard Castle; F Nicholson, Chester-le-Street; Mrs E A Smyth, Heighington, Darlington.
East Riding of Yorkshire: C A Maxsted, Brough; A L Marr, Beverley; C M Oughtred, Londesborough, York.
East Sussex: Viscountess Brentford, Wadhurst; K Millar, Wadhurst; W F de Salis, Wadhurst.
Essex: R G Newman, Braintree; G R C Cure, Ongar; J G S Coode-Adams, Feering, Colchester.
Gloucestershire: W J Eykyn, Duntisbourne Abbotts, Cirencester; M W Vesey, Andoversford; Major J V Eyre, Tytherington, Wotton-under-Edge.
Greater London: J P Gough, London SW1; R J L Bramble, London SW1; M A Ashcroft, London SW1.
Hampshire: J J L G Sheffield, Whitchurch; V A L Powell, Headbourne Worthy; Major J G Groves, Whitchurch.
Herefordshire: S W B Dereham, Woolhope; Mrs R J Dawes, Malvern; Mrs Hone, Bosbury, near Ledbury.
Hertfordshire: R O Pleydell-Bouverie, Peters Green, near Luton, Bedfordshire; H M Neal, Sarratt, Rickmansworth; E W F Walker, Sandon Bury, near Buntingford.
Isle of Wight: D C Biles, Northwood; S H G Twining, St Lawrence, near Ventnor; Dr C N A Mobbs, Newport.
Kent: J P Merricks, Rye, East Sussex; J B Sunley, Godmersham, near Canterbury; R F Loder-Symonds, Womenswold, Canterbury.
Leicestershire: I M McAlpine, Peatling Parva; Mrs A G Wilson; Gaulby, near Billesdon; R A Wessel, Desford.
Lincolnshire: G O Hutchison, Welby, Grantham; F J F M Dymoke, Horncastle; R W Parker, Metheringham, Lincoln.
Norfolk: A E Buxton, Norwich; N W D Foster, East Lexham, Kings Lynn; R W Jewson, Barnham Broom.
Northamptonshire: Lady Morton, Flore, Northampton; D Reynolds, Weekley, Kettering; A G Stoughton-Harris, Grendon.
Northumberland: C A F Baker-Cresswell, Bamburgh; Mrs E M Fairbairn, Hallington, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; S C Enderby, Hexham.
North Yorkshire: Lady C Collin, Pockley, York; A V Hudson, Hampsthwaite, Harrogate; G C Turton, Upsall Castle, Thirsk.
Nottinghamshire: Mrs J M Farr, Epperstone; A M Nall, Hockerton; Mrs B A Vere-Laurie, Carlton on Trent, near Newark.
Oxfordshire: R Ovey, Rotherfield Greys; A Feilden, Minster Lovell, near Witney; R H Lethbridge, Fulbrook.
Rutland: Mrs L L Taylor, Ashwell, Oakham; Mrs W M L Goldring, Preston, Oakham; Lieutenant Colonel R N C Bingley, Wing, Oakham.
Shropshire: L C N Bury, Munslow, Craven Arms; J R B Lovegrove-Fielden, Pontesford, Shrewsbury; R P Corbett, Longnor, Dorrington.
Somerset: Mrs M E B Beckett, Cutcombe, Minehead; M H F Morley, Priston, Bath; T A H Yandle, Exebridge, Dulverton.
South Yorkshire: Mrs K E Riddle, Sheffield; D B Shaw, Sheffield; Colonel I G Norton, Sheffield.
Staffordshire: A E R Manners, Bradley, Stafford; D E D Johnson, Stafford; D Elliot, Newborough, Burton on Trent.
Suffolk: P V Fisher, Thetford, Norfolk; Colonel D H C Gordon Lennox, Great Saxham, Bury St. Edmunds; J Clement, Tuddenham, Ipswich.
Surrey: R H S Stilgoe, Limpsfield Chart, Oxted; P R Nutting, Ewhurst; M G More-Molyneux, Loseley Park, Guildford.
Tyne and Wear: J S Ward, Whitburn, Sunderland; M Bird, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne; J T Ward, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne.
Warwickshire: D J Barnes, Claverdon; M C Fetherston-Dilke, Coleshill; J S Hammon, Wappenbury, Leamington Spa.
West Midlands: W G K Carter, Droitwich, Worcestershire; R S Burman, Inkberrow, near Redditch, Worcestershire; J F Woolridge, Tettenhall, Wolverhampton.
West Sussex: B S L Trafford, Rudgwick; Mrs J Buckland, Lyminster; R R Loder, Lower Beeding, Horsham.
West Yorkshire: J J E Brennan, Rawdon, Leeds; P A H Hartley, Leeds; F R Fenton, Keighley.
Wiltshire: Lady Hawley, Little Cheverell, Devizes; P J Miles, Stanley, Chippenham; R N Lawton, Aldbourne, Marlborough.
Worcestershire: S W B Dereham, Woolhope, Herefordshire; Mrs R J Dawes, Birtsmorton Court, near Malvern; Mrs L Hone, Bosbury House, near Ledbury, Herefordshire.

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I heard a voice in heaven proclaim: 'This is the time of victory for our God, the time of his power and sovereignty, when his Christ comes to his rightful rule'. Revelation 12 : 10

BIRTHS

ARMSTRONG - On November 10th at The Portland Hospital, to Kristina (née Storm) and Michael, a son, Michael Storm, a brother for Karina.

BARTLETT - On November 5th 1997, to Susannah (née Maclean) and Robert, a daughter, Albany Maisie Mandeville, a sister for Catriona (Kitty).

BERTUZZI-GLOVER - On 9th November, to Deborah (née Bertuzzi-Amanda) and John, a son, Roderick John, a brother for George.

BONOMI - On November 6th at The Portland Hospital, to Gioia (née Rossi) and Andrea, a son, Carlo Alessandro.

CARTNER - See Gommo.

GOMMO - Kiran (née Cartner) and Richard are overjoyed, proud and stunned to announce the birth of Dominic Richard Michael, Sebastian Richard Jonathan and India Alice Rebecca on Saturday 8th November 1997. Thanks to all at the John Radcliffe. (World's population of Gommos increases by 75%).

HENRY - Irina (née Alexeeva) and Martin announce the birth of their son Alexander Fyodr on 13th October at St Mary's Hospital. First grandchild to Olga and Anatolie and sixth to Tom and Aileen. Welcome to this world little angel.

JOHNSON - On November 10th, to Julia (née Wedgwood) and Nick, a son, Daniel Lawrence.

KINDERSLEY - On November 12th, to Anabel (née Worrell) and Barnabas, a son, Maximilian George.

LLOYD - On November 3rd 1997, to Joanna (née Freeland) and Henry, a daughter, Alice Elizabeth, a sister for Edward and Thomas.

MURRAY - On October 22nd 1997, to Peter and Carolyn, a beautiful daughter, Phoebe Kate.

BIRTHS

PULLAN - On November 9th at home at Fletching, to Karina (née Good) and James, a beautiful daughter, Frederica Jade Bridget.

RENWICK - On November 10th, at The Chelsea and Westminster, to Vanessa and James, a precious son, Rory Alexander Neville. A sibling for Archie!

SCOTT-MONCRIEFF/WHITE - On the 9th November in Johannesburg to Mark and Lizzie, a daughter, Rowan, a sister for Fernanda.

WEBSTER - On Sunday 9th November 1997 at Stoke Mandeville, to Mark and Gill (née Waterworth), God's precious gift of a daughter, Luisa Ellen Isabella.

WEIR - On November 8th 1997, to Sarah Cunningham and Keith Weir, a son, Daniel Nicholas.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

PLENDERLEITH - Margaret would like to thank most sincerely all friends and colleagues for their kind letters, cards and telephone calls following her sad loss of her dear husband Dr. Harold James Plenderleith.

DEATHS

BARNETT - Elsie Barnett MBE (née Green) died peacefully on 6th November. Funeral to take place on Monday 17th November at Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead at 11.30 am. Family flowers only. Donations in celebration for the life and work of Elsie Green to Shakespeare's Globe Trust c/o Longhurst (Undertakers), 8-10 Pound Lane, Epsom, KT19 8RY, tel: (01372) 723548.

DEATHS

BEARD - John Barry, beloved husband of Ann and father of Annie and Christopher. Passed away peacefully on Monday November 10th 1997. Funeral Service will be held at Berwick Church, East Sussex, on Thursday November 20th 1997 at 11.30 am. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to the British Red Cross Society, The Redoubt, Royal Parade, Eastbourne BN22 7AQ. All enquiries to Thomas Rich, 46 South Road, Hailsham, East Sussex. (01323) 840049.

BOSTON - On 7th November in the Lister Hospital, Westminster, after a fight against cancer, Elizabeth Wendeline aged 71, only daughter of Victor and Sarah Boston and formerly Col. Funeral at Mortlake Crematorium at 2.30 pm on Thursday 20th November. Donations if wished to Imperial Cancer Research c/o T.H. Sanders, 28 Kew Road, Richmond.

BRALOWER - Alan Goran. Peacefully on November 11th 1997 aged 79 years. Much loved husband of Skit, devoted father of Betsy and Tim and dear Pa to James and Virginia. Thanksgiving Service on Thursday 20th November at 12 noon at St Peter's Church, Limpsfield, Surrey. Family flowers only.

BUXTON - On Sunday November 9th peacefully in Church Reverend Digby Hugh Buxton aged 81. The youngest of six brothers and sisters and the first to die. Funeral Service at St Lawrence Church, Winchester on Tuesday 18th November at 11 am. No flowers please.

COOPER - Joe, loved husband of Sybil, on November 11th at home in Moreton-in-Marsh, late of Bircham, Norfolk and St Ouens, Jersey. Aged 82 after a long full life. Funeral Service at Oakley Wood Crematorium, Warwickshire, on Monday November 17th at 12.30 pm. Family flowers only. Donations if wished to the Injured Jockeys Fund or the RAF Benevolent Society c/o Allen & Son, High Street, Moreton-in-Marsh, Glos.

COX - Charles W.H. Cox MM Bruneval Raid 1941, died 7th November 1997.

ELLICOMBE - Dorothy "Polly" passed peacefully away on 8th November aged 89. Funeral Service at St Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, West Street, Havant, Hants. on Monday 17th November at 11 am, followed by cremation at Portchester, near Fareham. Family flowers only or donations if wished to The Latin Mass Society, 11-13 Macklin Street, London, WC2B 5NH.

GARDNER - James Willis, M.B.E., of Weybridge, peacefully at home in Castel Gandolfo, Italy, on 11th November, aged 82. Much loved husband of Leila and father of Marina, William and Alexia.

GETGOOD - Mrs. Penny Getgood QAS, RAEC. On November 7th, aged 86, peacefully at Sevenoaks, with her four children at her side. Beloved mother of Valerie, Tania, David and Peter; and grandmother of four. Funeral Service at Seal Church, nr. Sevenoaks, Kent, Friday November 14th at 11.30 am. Enquiries to Welham Jones, 01732-742400.

HARTLEY - Dr. Peter L.M., late of Wimbledon Park Road and Exeter House, Putney Heath, died peacefully at Fremington Manor Nursing Home, Barnstaple, on Monday 10th November. Beloved father and grandfather. Funeral at North Devon Crematorium on Wednesday 19th November at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only please. Donations to British Heart Foundation, 14 Fitzhardinge Road, London W1H 4DH.

HIRSCH - John, much loved father, brother, friend, uncle, grandfather and Godfather, died on 9th November 1997 suddenly at the London Bridge Hospital. Memorial Service at Chelsea Old Church on 21st November at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only.

HUME - On Wednesday 5th November 1997 at Somesta Nursing Home, Golders Green, London NW11, Mrs (Jessie) Margaret Hume MA, widow of Major C W Hume OBE MC BSc and younger daughter of the late Mr and Mrs John Pattison of Crail and North Berwick and sister of the late John Buchanan Pattison and the late Miss Elizabeth Thompson Pattison. Funeral at Hendon Cemetery, London at 2 pm on Tuesday 18th November. All friends welcome.

JEANS - David, husband of Sylvia Mary, father of Philippa and Charlie, died at home on Tuesday 11th November. Cremation at Portchester on Wednesday 19th November at 12.30 pm. Family flowers only please. Donations if wished to Marie Curie Cancer Care, 28 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8QG.

KEEGAN - Christopher Michael beloved son of Charles and Pamela Bovill, after a long battle courageously fought, passed peacefully away on Sunday November 9th. Funeral November 18th 12 noon Holy Innocents Church, Paddenswick Road, Hammersmith W6. No flowers please, donations to St Stephens Aids Trust for Research at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital. Charity No. 1002285.

KNIGHT - Ella on November 11th, at the age of 94, peacefully at her home in the Isle of Mull. Mourned by her family and many friends.

MARANGOS - Peggy Diana (née Swinden), born 26th April 1918, died 11th November 1997, loving mother to Diana and Anthony and the grandchildren. Funeral Service Kent County Crematorium 10 am 14th November, followed by Memorial Service at Holy Trinity Brompton, London, 3pm, afterwards the Pelham Hotel. Flowers to Holy Trinity and all donations to Parkinson's Society.

NEWSON-SMITH - Sir John Newson-Smith Bt DL MA peacefully on November 11th 1997 after a brief illness. Most beloved husband of Sarah, loving father of Susie, Peter and Jane, stepfather of Hamish and Alexandra and grandfather of Simon, Mark, Oliver, Emma, Rowan, Katie, Rachel, Holly and Bryony. Funeral to be held at St Denys Church, Warminster, at 2 pm on Saturday 22nd November. Family flowers only please. Donations to Macmillan Cancer Relief, 15 Britten Street, London SW3 3TZ or Marie Curie Cancer Care, 28 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8QG.

NORGATE - See Tewson.

O'BRIEN - Turlough Aubrey, CBE, died on 7th November aged 90, at The Royal Star and Garter Home, Richmond. Much loved father of Teige, Nicholas and Corinna and grandfather of Grania and Finola. Following a private cremation, there will be a memorial service at St Johns, Hartley Wintney on Wednesday 26th November at 12.30 pm. Family flowers only. Donations to The Royal Star and Garter Home c/o Andrew Holmes & Son, 378 Richmond Road, East Twickenham, TW1 2DX.

PARKER - At home in his 40th year after an illness borne with most courageous cheerfulness, Max Somerville, a dearly loved husband, son, brother and son-in-law. Cremation in private.

PERTWEE - Norman Frank of Frinton-on-Sea died peacefully on 11th November after a short illness, just three weeks short of his 90th birthday. Beloved husband of Josephine and the late Eileen. He leaves three sons: Christopher, Jeremy and Nigel and numerous grand and great-grandchildren who will dearly miss him. Private family cremation. Service of Thanksgiving to be arranged early December. For details tel: (01206) 231000, fax: (01206) 231132.

SIMONS - On 8th November 1997, James Andrew Wykeham, very dearly loved husband of Diana, peacefully at home after a short illness, aged 67, second son of the late Horace Simons, OBE, and the late Winifred Simons, loving brother of Michael, Angela and Ambrose, a supportive brother-in-law and a kind and affectionate uncle; a fine and gentle man, cherished by many. A simple funeral service will be held at Sacred Heart Church, 262 Kingston Road, Teddington (nearest BR station Hampton Wick), on Monday, 17th November, at 2.30 pm, followed by cremation at South West Middlesex Crematorium, Hanworth. At his special request, there will be no eucharist or requiem mass, but please pray for him and all two-church families. Family flowers only; donations if wished to Princess Alice Hospice or Royal Star and Garter Home (for ex-servicemen/women), care of Frederick W Paine, Funeral Directors, 102 High Street, Teddington, TW11 8JD. Tel 0181 977 1527.

TAIT - On November 10th suddenly but peacefully at her home, High Syke House, Broughton in Furness, Brenda aged 75 years, beloved wife of David.

TEWSON - Ann (née Norgate), wife of the late Geoffrey Tewson, on November 8th. Funeral Service at Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead, on Wednesday 19th November at 1.30 pm. Enquiries to F.W. Paine, 108 High Street, Esher, (01372) 464021.

WILSON - Clifford Emeritus Professor of Medicine. Peacefully on November 10th 1997 aged 91. Husband of the late Kathleen and father of Jeremy and Felicity. Funeral enquiries to John Shaxing, Funeral Directors, tel: 01425-653019.

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MAJOR-GENERAL 'PIP' ROBERTS

Major-General G. P. B. ("Pip") Roberts, CB, DSO and two Bars, MC, died on his 91st birthday. He was born on November 5, 1906.

THE outstanding British armoured commander of the Second World War, "Pip" Roberts came to prominence in 1942 when his brigade blunted the assault of the German Afrika Korps during Montgomery's battle of Alam Halfa. This put paid to Rommel's last attempt to break through the El Alamein line at the end of August.

Thereafter Roberts commanded armoured formations with outstanding success during the remainder of the North African campaign, and from Normandy to the Baltic in Northwest Europe.

The nickname "Pip" could not have been more appropriate. A small, alert and dynamic leader with a light touch and nice sense of humour, he was universally popular in the Army. His extraordinary battle sense and tactical flair for armoured warfare enabled him to inspire battle-winning confidence in his men, and the trust of his superiors. Moreover, he was one of the bravest of men, who must have survived more shot and shell than almost any other commander. Three DSOs and an MC are not lightly won.

Educated at Marlborough and Sandhurst, George Philip Bradley Roberts was commissioned into the Royal Tank Corps in 1926. By 1938, he was adjutant of the 6th Royal Tank Regiment in Egypt.

He was DAQMG of Armoured Division when the Italians invaded Egypt in 1940; brigade major of its 4th Armoured Brigade during O'Connor's victorious campaign, which destroyed the Italian 10th Army in the winter of 1940-41; GSO2 of 7th Armoured Division during Brevity and Battleaxe, Wavell's two abortive attempts to relieve Tobruk in the summer of 1941; and AQMG of 30th Corps during the Crusader offensive, Auchinleck's pyrrhic victory over Rommel that autumn.

He was given command of the 3rd Royal Tank Regiment in January 1942, and his first tank battle came at the end of May, in the opening phase of the Battle of Gazala, when Rommel drove round the desert flank of the Eighth Army and tried to destroy it from the rear. Roberts's regiment, with two squadrons of American Grant tanks and one of light American "Honeys", was part of 4th Armoured Brigade, which attempted to stop the first onrush of the Afrika Korps. Although he handled his regiment skilfully, the tank losses were heavy. Next day an 88mm anti-tank round passed right through his tank but he survived. Ten days later, in the fighting around the "cauldron", he was badly wounded when he had a second tank shot from under him.

Fit again by the end of July, he was given command of 22nd Armoured Brigade deployed on the vital Alam Halfa Ridge in the rear of the El Alamein Line. Montgomery arrived soon afterwards and decided that if Rommel tried to go round the southern flank again, he would be trapped in a cauldron of Montgomery's own making below Alam Halfa. Rommel did make the attempt on August 31. His Afrika Korps ran into Roberts's brigade in well-chosen hull-down positions on the western end of the ridge. It was a close-run thing, but Roberts's brigade inflicted enough damage on the German tanks to force the Afrika Korps to recoil. Three days later Rommel gave up his last attempt to reach the Suez Canal.

Alam Halfa brought Roberts to the notice of Montgomery, and forged a long-lasting link between Roberts and General Sir Brian Horrocks, his corps commander. In the Battle of El Alamein at the end of October, Roberts's brigade played a prominent part in breaching the minefields in the southern sector of the front and in the final breakout phase as part of 7th Armoured Division, then commanded by John Harding (later Field Marshal Lord Harding), with whom he also established a close rapport.

In the subsequent pursuit of Rommel's defeated Panzer Army, 22nd Armoured Brigade operated under Montgomery's command. And when John Harding was wounded near Tarhuna, Montgomery sent Roberts to take over 7th Armoured Division, which he commanded temporarily until it entered Tripoli in January 1943.

"Pip" Roberts, left, with Major-General Sir Allan Adair, Bt, outside the Imperial War Museum in 1984, at a ceremony to mark the anniversary of the liberation of Belgium

Meanwhile, 1st Army was in difficulties in French North Africa and needed experienced tank commanders. Roberts was released by Montgomery to command 26th Armoured Brigade in 6th Armoured Division on the Tunisian front.

With them he broke through the Fonduk Pass in April, and led the decisive thrust for Tunis in May, giving the coup de grace at Hammam Lif.

Battle-hardened, Roberts was then sent back to England to help to prepare for the invasion of Europe. Recommended by Montgomery for the command of an armoured division, he had to mark time commanding 30th Armoured Brigade for a few months until 11th Armoured Division, earmarked for Normandy, became available for him in November 1943. He had risen from captain to major-general in three years, and took over his division at just 37.

Under his command, 11th Armoured Division became the most trusted and thrusting of Montgomery's three armoured divisions in Northwest Europe, playing a successful part in all of the major tank battles in the beachhead: first Epsom, then Goodwood and finally Bluecoat.

After the crossing of the Seine, Roberts led Montgomery's advance across northern France, surprising and capturing not only the German garrison of Amiens with a rapid night march, but also General Eberbach, who had just taken over command of the German 7th Army. He went on to take Antwerp at the beginning of September.

During the fighting in Normandy and the pursuit across France, Roberts was largely responsible for the development of the mixed brigade concept adopted by the armoured divisions. For the open desert their brigades had been predominantly armoured or infantry: in close European country, tanks needed far more infantry support so Roberts developed the more flexible organisation, in which the mix of armour and infantry could be tactically varied.

The armoured divisions were at a grave disadvantage in winter, fighting in the Rhineland. However, as soon as the Rhine was crossed in March, Roberts's division was in the lead once more, fighting its way across Germany to Lübeck on the Baltic coast, liberating the concentration camp victims at Belsen on the way. He always contended that, had Eisenhower not forbidden it, he could have crossed the Elbe and been in Berlin before the Russians.

Instead, he had a final task of issuing orders to Grand Admiral Doenitz, Hitler's reluctant successor, and Field Marshal Keitel, head of OKW, at Flensburg on the Danish frontier.

He was appointed Director of the Royal Armoured Corps in the War Office in 1948. He decided, however, that on his army salary he could not educate his children, and in 1949 he joined Huntley & Palmers, the biscuit manufacturers. When he retired from business, he settled in Majorca until his wife Desirée, whom he had married in 1936, died in 1979. His second wife, whom he married in 1980, was Anne Cornelia, the widow of Brigadier J. K. Greenwood, a former colleague of his in the Royal Tank Regiment. She survives him, with two sons and two daughters of his first marriage.

His book, *From the Desert to the Baltic*, provides a good light account of all his battles.

SIR LINCOLN HALLINAN

Sir Lincoln Hallinan, Stipendiary Magistrate and former Lord Mayor of Cardiff, died on November 2 aged 74. He was born on November 13, 1922.

LINCOLN HALLINAN was a powerful presence in the professional and public life of Cardiff for nearly half a century. Professionally, he was a stylish advocate, who became a Crown Court recorder and later the Welsh capital's stipendiary magistrate. But he also maintained a high profile by his activities outside court — in local government and such areas as the arts and conservation.

He was three times a Conservative candidate for Parliament, twice fighting George Thomas in Cardiff West. It is said that the future Lord Tonypandy never forgave him. Having lost, Hallinan then settled down to local politics. Elected to Cardiff City Council at 27 — its youngest member at the time — he remained on it for 25 years. He chaired its education committee for eight of them, throughout the turbulent period of change to comprehensive schools.

Then he crowned his local government career by becoming Lord Mayor in 1969, the year of the Prince of Wales's Investiture. An oil painting of Hallinan and the Prince hangs in Cardiff's City Hall.

He played a leading role in developing the Welsh College of Music and Drama, and was chairman of the Cardiff College of Art. He helped to found Cardiff's Civic Trust and a South Wales branch of the Victorian Society, winning the support of John Betjeman in his battles to conserve the city's Victorian heritage. Yet for all his public celebrity, what few people knew about him was that his initial intention had been to become a monk.

Adrian Lincoln Hallinan was the son of Sir Charles Hallinan, a prosperous Cardiff solicitor whose family had migrated from Ireland during the potato famine. "Charlie" Hallinan, who was himself to become Lord Mayor, had wanted to call his son Abraham Lincoln. But his wife flatly refused, eventually agreeing to compromise on the "Lincoln".

He went to Downside, reflecting the family's (and especially his mother's) Roman Catholicism, and then entered a monastery as a novice. As his brother was a monk, his uncle an abbot and two of his aunts were nuns, the decision was not altogether surprising.

After 18 months, however, he left to fight in the Second World War. He was commissioned into the Rifle Brigade in 1942 but, to his intense disappointment, was kept in this country because of his susceptibility to asthma. He was posted to Germany and Jersey only when the war was over.

He remained in the Army until 1947, getting leave of absence to fight a by-election at Aberdare in 1946 — but, unlike Michael Heseltine at Gower in the 1959 general election, was briefly recalled to the colours once the contest was over. Demobbed in 1947, he returned to his monastery, but stayed only six months, becoming convinced that a contemplative's life was not for him.

Instead, he read for the Bar, before being called in 1950 — appropriately enough by Lincoln's Inn. He then practised at the Criminal Bar on the Wales and Chester Circuit, displaying a talent for winning over juries by his eloquence. He was made a recorder in 1972 and stipendiary magistrate for Cardiff five years later.

Elected to the city council in 1949, he was an alderman at 39 and remained on the council until the 1974 local government changes. He wrote a furious letter to *The Times* denouncing these changes, which had left Wales's capital with only a district council.

He was made a Deputy Lieutenant for Glamorgan in 1969, and his other honours included that of a Chevalier of the French Légion d'honneur — reflecting Cardiff's "twinning" with Nantes.

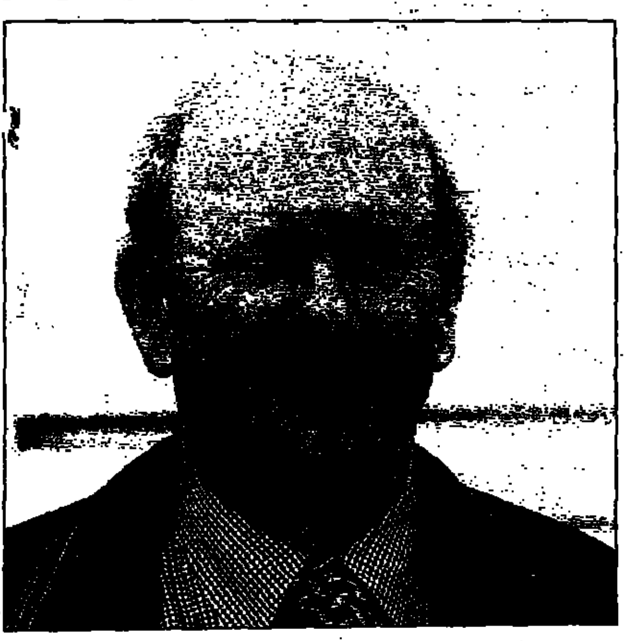
A flamboyant performer in court and the council chamber, Lincoln Hallinan virtually invited controversy at times, once antagonising striking teachers by declaring: "We are masters, and they the servants." His outspokenness and caprices on the bench could also sometimes land him in hot water. A woman defendant once threw a shoe at him. "Not a very good shot is she?" he drily commented in a stage whisper to the clerk.

He had his full quota of enemies and detractors. His 1971 knighthood, it was said, came a year later than it should have done because the former Welsh Secretary, George Thomas, not one to forget an old foe, had blocked it. But Hallinan never lost his sense of humour and enjoyed the great gift of laughing at himself. Politically, he was a very liberal, non-doctrinaire Tory.

He collected commemorative artefacts, publishing a study on *British Commemoratives* last year. He was also an authority on antiques.

He married his wife Mary in 1955. A fellow barrister, she had joined his Cardiff chambers, despite strong opposition from the young Hallinan who was then unimpressed by female advocates. He is survived by her and by their two sons and two daughters.

PETER BALL



Peter Ball, northern football correspondent of *The Times*, died from leukaemia on November 11 aged 54. He was born on April 13, 1943.

MANY sportswriters excel at live reporting of events, colourful features or trenchant opinion pieces. Although Peter Ball was sufficiently versatile to be able to carry out these tasks of daily journalism with consistent competence, particularly in football and cricket, his rare talent was in coaxing information out of players and managers to illuminate how they did their jobs. He had the gift of even making the mundane seem interesting.

His book *Only a Game?*, the diary of a season with Millwall in the 1970s through the eyes of Eamonn Dunphy, the Republic of Ireland international, was exceptional. It became the standard by which similar books were judged, and was exceeded in acclaim only with the publication of *Fever Pitch* by Nick Hornby more than a decade later. Hornby's original work consisted of his own memories as a supporter, whereas Ball had to convey the thoughts and feelings of a player.

He was much respected among journalists for his analysis of games, but he never allowed his fondness for Manchester United and Lancashire County Cricket Club to influence his reporting. Although modest and self-effacing, he expressed strong opinions both vocally and in print, but not with any boisterous assertion.

Brought up by his mother and aunt in Kent and Essex, he was educated at Sutton Valence School. In 1965, he went to Sussex University, then enjoying a fashionable popularity with the young, to read history. Ball flourished in the open atmosphere of a new and stridently coeducational university. He drove a battered Mini, the first of a series of much-loved cars, ate and drank expansively with the Hedonists, the students' dining club, and represented the university at cricket, successfully bowling off spinners. He was later a member of the MCC, qualifying by playing.

After a stint as a supply teacher, assisting at the Bethlehem and Maudsley Hospitals, he won a history scholarship to the University of California, Los Angeles, where he took an MA. He returned to his teaching posts in London in 1971 before persuading *Time Out*, then in the first flush of success, to run a regular sports section. He became its first sports editor.

Only a Game? was published in 1978 and immediately gave him a new status in sportswriting. Although he tried radio broadcasting, he never felt as content behind the microphone as behind a typewriter. He began reporting for *The Times* in the mid-1980s. After a spell as football correspondent of the *London Daily News*, the short-lived 24-hour newspaper, he returned to *The Times* and was taken on the staff in 1992. He subsequently covered football across the North of England, and reported both the 1994 World Cup and 1996 European campionship. He also frequently accompanied the Republic of Ireland team abroad during their heyday under the managership of Jackie Charlton.

For the last 15 years, he was much in demand as an author. He wrote books on football with figures such as Alex Ferguson, Jackie Charlton, Tony Woodcock and Peter Reid. On each occasion, he used his skill at listening and then conveying the meaning exactly to readers. His book with the England cricketer Graeme Fowler, entitled *Fox on the Run*, was the Channel 4 Sports Book of the Year.

Ball was entranced by the idiosyncrasies of sport, and edited five editions of *The Book of Football Quotations* (with Phil Shaw) and *The Book of Cricket Quotations* (with David Hopps). Since 1985 his Sports Quotes of the Year in *The Times* have been an entertaining feature of the Christmas season.

Like many journalists, he needed an impending deadline to produce his work. Always eager to write, he found his illness this year increasingly frustrating. He was looking forward to returning to the world that he so enjoyed, although when he finally realised that this was impossible, he accepted it with fortitude.

His marriage to Sarah was dissolved four years ago. He leaves three sons.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES THE TIMES

ON THIS DAY

November 13, 1929

The awarding of the Nobel Prize for Literature to Thomas Mann (1875-1955) was regarded by many as an acknowledgement of his position as perhaps the greatest novelist in Europe.

NOBEL PRIZE AWARDS

LITERATURE, PHYSICS, AND CHEMISTRY

BERLIN, NOV. 12

A Stockholm message announces that Herr Thomas Mann has been awarded this year's Nobel Prize for Literature. He is the fifth German to receive the Prize, the others being: Theodor Mommsen (1902), Rudolf Eucken (1908), Karl Heyse (1910), and Gerhart Hauptmann (1912).

Herr Thomas Mann, who is himself a Lübecker, is possibly best known through the "Buddenbrooks," a story of the rise and fall of a Hanseatic trading dynasty. At the time when he wrote "Buddenbrooks" he was much under the influence of the Scandinavian novelists, living as he did in a German Free City which has the closest of associations with Scandinavia, and this has given him a particular pleasure in the award of the Prize. Other well-known novels of his are "Der kleine Herr Friedemann" and "Tristan." He is at present engaged on a two-volume novel, "Joseph and his Brethren." This is for Herr Mann entirely new ground.

STOCKHOLM, Nov 12 — The Nobel Prize for Physics for 1928 has been awarded to Professor Owen Willans Richardson, Yarrow Research Professor of the Royal Society and Director of Research in Physics at King's College London.

The Nobel Prize for Physics for 1929 has been awarded to the Duc de Broglie. The award to the Duc de Broglie is made on account of his discovery of the undulating nature of electrons.

The 1928 prize is awarded by the Academy of Science to Professor Richardson for his discovery of the fundamental physical law known as the "Richardson law," which governs the motion of electrons emanating from hot bodies. This formula constitutes the basis of the action of the wireless valve, upon which wireless telephony and broadcasting depend. - *Reuter.*

CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP OF WORLD

FROM OUR CHESS CORRESPONDENT)

Dr A. Alekhine retains the Chess Championship of the World, his match with E.D. Bogoljubow having been finished at Wiesbaden yesterday, when the 25th game was drawn.

The first arrangements for the match were that 30 games were to be played, but yesterday's message stated that the match is now finished, Alekhine having won 11 games to the five of Bogoljubow, with nine games drawn. With only five games to be played out of the original 30, Bogoljubow had no chance of even equalising, and so one of the most curious matches in the history of world chess championships has come to an end.

That Alekhine would win was a foregone conclusion, judging by all one knew of the form of both players, but Bogoljubow has the satisfaction of knowing he has inflicted more defeats on Alekhine than the latter has ever suffered in any previous match. The games themselves have been a curious mixture of good and bad play, the latter predominating in the earlier stages of the match.

هكذا من الاهل

THE TIMES TODAY

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 13 1997

NEWS

Ecclestone offered second big gift

■ Bernie Ecclestone was proposing a second big donation to the Labour Party on top of the £1 million he gave in January.

Neither Tony Blair nor other Labour leaders have made any public mention of a second gift during the turmoil of the past few days — although the party raised it with the standards watchdog Sir Patrick Neill last week. Last night's disclosure of *this second offer from* the Formula One motor racing supremo is certain to fuel Tory allegations of a cover-up .... **Page 1**

Biggs stays in Brazil

■ Ronnie Biggs, 68, the Great Train Robber, will see out his days in the safety and warmth of Rio de Janiero. The Brazilian Supreme Court rejected Britain's application to bring him back to finish his 30-year prison sentence despite a new extradition treaty. The Home Office said it would not try again..... **Page 1**

Thousands tagged

The Home Secretary and the Lord Chief Justice read the last rites over the Conservative policy of "prison works". Three thou*sand inmates will be freed early* on electronic tags.............. **Page 1**

IRA infighting

New evidence of IRA infighting emerged when dissidents claimed the bulk of a top IRA "battalion" had resigned and joined those challenging the peace strategy of Gerry Adams..................... **Page 2**

Top preacher

The Rev Paul Walker, who admits he tried sex, drugs and Buddhism before opting for the Church of England, won the Preacher of the Year Award. His subject was holiness.......... **Page 3**

Out to lunch

Meals on Wheels delivered lunch to Clarence House *but the Queen* Mother declined because she had an engagement with the Canadian High Commissioner.... **Page 7**

Council pensions

Pension funds for millions of local authority workers are in *crisis because so many have tak*en advantage of early retirement packages.................... **Pages 8, 21**

Judge jailed

A former county court judge was jailed for 28 days after admitting his third drink-driving offence in 12 years. He had already resigned from the bench .... **Page 10**

Golden Devon

Britain's largest gold strike has been made by Minmet, an Irish-based company, near Crediton in Devon. But the goldfield named *Watford Gap has so far yielded* only small deposits .... **Page 11**

Mercedes disaster

Safety doubts over the stability of the new Mercedes "baby" A-class model have stopped assembly lines and caused a multi-million pound public relations disaster............................ **Page 13**

Iraq travel ban

The United Nations Security Council agreed to a symbolic tightening of sanctions on Iraq by imposing a travel ban on Iraqi officials who seldom leave the country.................... **Pages 14, 21**

Karachi shootings

Four Americans and a Pakistani *were shot dead in the centre of* Karachi, probably by Islamic extremists in an apparent reprisal............................ **Page 15**

On the gravy train

Members of the European Parliament are enriching themselves *with padded expenses, according* to an investigation by German television .... **Page 16**

Arafat's illness

Yassir Arafat, the veteran Palestinian leader, has an unnamed degenerative disease and manoeuvres to succeed him have begun............................ **Page 17**

Shoppers under the influence of music

■ A jaunty accordion tune inspires supermarket shoppers to buy French wine, while bierkeller music has them reaching for German wine. Psychologists at Leicester University installed a tape deck on the top shelf of a display of wine in the Asda store in Oadby, Leicestershire, and found that musical "fit" has a profound effect on product choice............................**Pages 11, 21**

SIMON WALKER

Mary Robinson, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, receiving a world citizenship award from Girl Guides in London

BUSINESS

Barclays: The clearing bank sold the equity and advisory business of BZW for £100 million to Credit Suisse First Boston, the Swiss-owned merchant bank....... **Page 25**

Nursing homes: Care First, the *nursing home company beset by* boardroom disputes, is hoping to defeat a £241 million takeover bid from Bupa, the health insurance *and hospitals group*.......... **Page 25**

Economy: The American Federal Open Market Committee decided to leave US interest rates on hold *for another month* .... **Page 25**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index fell 73.3 points to close at 4720.4. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 103.8 to 104.4 after a rise from $1.7042 to $1.7058 and from DM2.9169 to DM2.9399.... **Page 28**

SPORT

Tennis: Greg Rusedski lost 6-4, 7-5 to the world No 1 Pete Sampras in the ATP world championship in Hanover. It was his second defeat in the group matches....... **Page 48**

Football: Ian Wright's failure to score in the past four Premiership games has prompted lengthy analysis during England's preparations for their match against Cameroon .... **Page 44**

Rugby union: Sean Fitzpatrick, the New Zealand captain, will miss the opening international match of their tour against Ireland because of a knee injury .... **Page 42**

Boxing: A small show at York Hall, Bethnal Green, was probably the last promotion of Mickey Duff's 47-year career, though he remains in the sport as a manager..... **Page 46**

Jane's navy: After a string of flops Demi Moore erupts back into the spotlight in the best of the week's new movies, Ridley Scott's gruelling, unreal *G.I. Jane*........**Page 34**

Round Robbins: After his Oscar-winning *Dead Man Walking*, Tim Robbins directed and starred in a comedy thriller, *Nothing to Lose*. Then he collapsed.............. **Page 35**

Belfast boom: After 35 years of worthy cultural effort in a troubled Province, the annual Belfast Festival has suddenly been given international clout .... **Page 36**

Bawd of Avon: Australian cult show *The Popular Mechanicals* has brought its brand of Shakespearean sillinesss to London in a show that drags the Bard resolutely downmarket........................ **Page 37**

Dr Thomas Stuttaford: Child-battering, whooping cough in children aged under two, angina, hormone treatment to reduce heart disease risk, and herpes................. **Page 18**

Hothouse: Its reputation as a hothouse for fashion talent is unrivalled. But something disturbing is happening at the fashion faculty of Central St Martins College of Art and Design .... **Page 19**

Best buys: Riding through the Mountains of Mourne at new year; see Santa in Lapland; Australia for about £300 return .... **Page 40**

Indian attraction: The India of Lawrence James entrances Jan Morris; Dr Thomas Stuttaford on physicians; R. W. Johnson enjoys a Mandela biography... **Pages 38, 39**

The President of the most powerful country in the world has lost the right to negotiate international commercial agreements. This time the resistance has come from Bill Clinton's own party, the Democrats. If he fails to retake the political initiative this loss will effectively bring his second term to a dead end — *El Pais*

8, 45, 36, 6, 27, 3. **Bonus: 47.** The estimated jackpot was £14,900,000.

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **MEDIA**
Carol Midgley finds out why people submit to fly-on-the-wall documentaries

■ **EDUCATION**
The schools' big *match with professional* clubs over where pupil loyalties lie

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Meet the women at the sharp end of the travel business. *Holiday Reps* (BBC1, 8.30pm). **Review:** *Joe Joseph on private school* admissions.................. **Pages 46, 47**

OPINION

Target Iraq's arsenal

Saddam can be left with only two choices: to co-operate *with the UN* in the destruction of his illegal weapons capability, or see it disabled by other means .... **Page 21**

Local scandal

Early retirement should be a last, not a first, resort. If council workers *find their jobs stressful, they* should be given less stressful work, not put out to grass........... **Page 21**

Musical wine bars

The proof of the musical bargain will be in the drinking. It may take more than *Rule Britannia* or *The Dream of Gerontius* to fill trolleys with English wine............. **Page 21**

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

If the CBI speeches on the single currency were put before academic examiners, *Tony Blair's would* get an athlete's third .... **Page 20**

VERNON BOGDANOR

With public funding of political parties, the general interest would be strengthened .... **Page 20**

MAGNUS LINKLATER

Museums are cultural assets, not grocer's shops.................... **Page 20**

PETER RIDDELL

Does Tony Blair want the Lib Dems as independent partners in multi-party politics or does he want to subsume them in an all-embracing new Labour hegemony? That will determine the choice of electoral systems.......................... **Page 12**

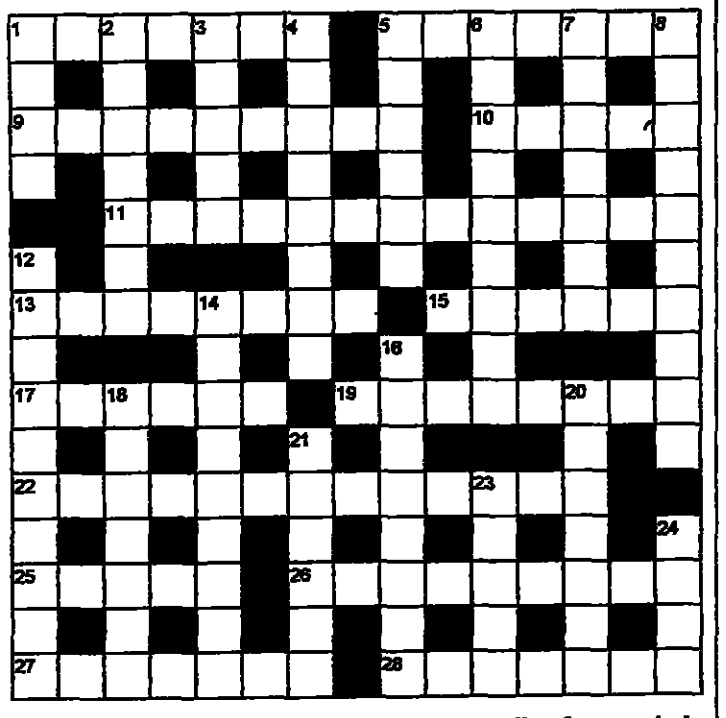
JOHN BRYANT

If you are fit enough and determined enough you can run through deserts, up mountains and across continents. But you can hardly move at all if you are hobbled with red tape.............. **Page 45**

Major-General "Pip" Roberts, wartime armoured commander; **Sir Lincoln Hallinan**, former Lord Mayor of Cardiff; **Peter Ball**, *Times* football writer......... **Page 23**

Party funding; eliminating poverty; judicial garb......................... **Page 21**

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,636



ACROSS
- 1 Seating accommodation for members (7).
- 5 Immobilise car first, having no front light (3,4).
- 9 Trick meaning almost out of order, in the majority view (9).
- 10 Record performance, showing difference between years (5).
- 11 Crew fight ban I contrived, following instructions to lawyer (8,5).
- 13 Is Tom's mate allowed a choice of girls for celebration? (3,5).
- 15 *Attack a provocative performance* (4-2).
- 17 Abused plain English at European summits (6).
- 19 More of a drag? (4-4).
- 22 Calculation of numbers in light infantry, perhaps (5,8).
- 25 Gloomy reading, for example, in letter's introduction (5).
- 26 Pole's at the front in this race, initially (5,4).
- 27 Went quickly, being nervous (7).
- 28 *Court* finally given motive for serious crime (7).

DOWN
- 1 Lap speed (4).
- 2 Crew said to assess means to get on ship (7).
- 3 Sketch of ball on green in Open (5).
- 4 Nearly overlook main source of *trouble* (8).
- 5 As worker nursing disease might be? (6).
- 6 Section of richer bourgeoisie in French town (9).
- 7 Such entertaining nights, following M1? (7).
- 8 Scout, of course, made new friend (10).
- 12 *Maybe he goes into capitals* as an overseas rep (10).
- 14 Deviating from annual revelling, if routine's held up (9).
- 16 Making sure one's watch keeps going (8).
- 18 Stick out long-term study (7).
- 20 Works in pubs – a way to be accepted (7).
- 21 *Money blackguard* raised for pompous dictator (3,3).
- 23 Film company, perhaps, using latest device for cutting (5).
- 24 To tax the population, taking final contributions? Neat (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,635

L	O	C	A	L	D	E	R	B	Y	■	C	H	O	P
O	■	R	■	I	■	A	■	A	■	■	■	E	■	A
P	R	E	S	B	Y	T	E	R	S	■	F	A	I	R
E	■	W	■	E	■	E	■	O	■	I	■	T	■	A
■	■	■	B	R	I	N	K	M	A	N	S	H	I	P
I	■	A	■	T	■	■	■	E	■	S	■	E	■	H
N	A	N	N	Y	G	O	A	T	■	T	E	N	O	R
G	■	E	■	H	■	U	■	E	■	R	■	D	■	A
R	O	M	E	O	■	T	O	R	T	U	R	O	U	S
E	■	O	■	R	■	F	■	■	■	M	■	M	■	E
D	O	M	E	S	T	I	C	A	T	E	D	■	■	■
I	■	E	■	E	■	T	■	V	■	N	■	P	■	D
E	A	T	S	■	S	T	R	E	E	T	W	I	S	E
N	■	E	■	■	■	E	■	R	■	A	■	C	■	N
T	U	R	N	■	F	R	I	T	I	L	L	A	R	Y

Times Two Crossword, page 48

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 7.15 am
Sun sets: 4.14 pm
Moon sets 5.21 am
Moon rises 4.08 pm
Full moon tomorrow
London 4.14 pm to 7.17 am
Bristol 4.24 pm to 7.26 am
Edinburgh 4.09 pm to 7.47 am
Manchester 4.15 pm to 7.33 am
Penzance 4.40 pm to 7.34 am

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 43.6% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the second half of 1996

FLIGHT SAVERS
LONDON TO ROTTERDAM FROM £69 RETURN
LONDON TO DUSSELDORF FROM £79 RETURN
LONDON TO ABERDEEN FROM £59 RETURN
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KLM AirUK

FORECAST

☐ **General:** after a cold and foggy start, Northern Ireland, Wales and England will have plenty of sunshine. However, rain will edge into Northern Ireland, western England and Wales later. Western and northern Scotland will have sunshine and showers, but elsewhere in Scotland it will be dry.

☐ **London, E Anglia, E & W Midlands, E, Cent N, NE England:** cold and frosty start with fog, then sunny spells. Light SW wind. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **SE, Cent S England:** chilly start with fog slowly clearing to leave sunny spells; risk of showers on coast. Light SW wind. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **Channel Iss, SW, NW England, S & N Wales, Lakes, IoM:** sunny spells with risk of showers; rain by evening. Light SW wind. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth:** sunny spells. Moderate SW wind. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **SW, NE, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Cent Highlands, Argyll, Scotland:** sunny spells with showers. Moderate SW wind. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **Orkney, Shetland:** sun and showers. Fresh S to SW wind. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **N Ireland:** sunny spells at first, cloudy with rain later. Moderate SW wind. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **Republic of Ireland:** rain spreading east; showers later in west. Wind moderate, SW. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Outlook:** rain will clear England and Wales by tomorrow afternoon; elsewhere it will be mainly dry. On Saturday it will rain in the north and west.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

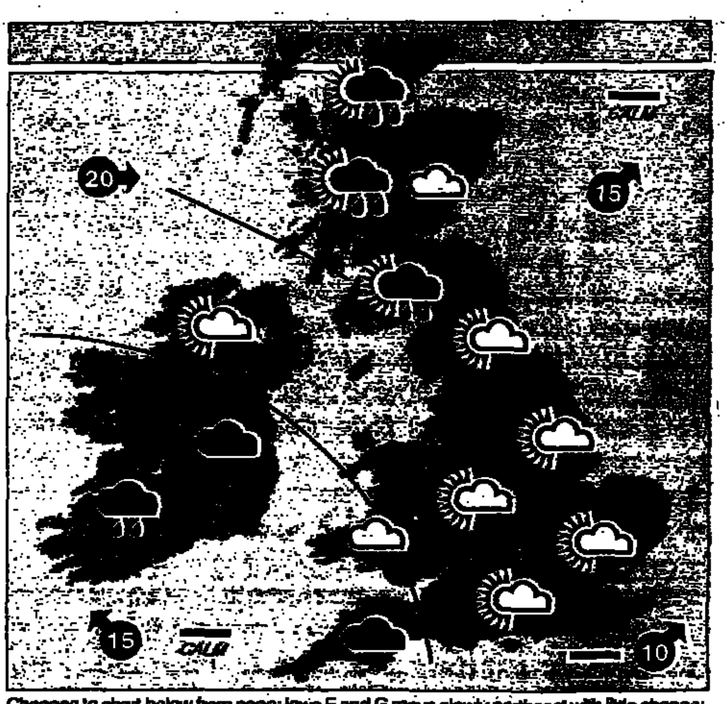
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F	
Aberdeen	6.0	-	11	52	s	Kinloss	3.0	0.07	11	52	sh
Anglesey	5.6	0.01	12	54	s	Leeds	5.9	0.01	12	54	s
Aspatria	5.5	0.44	11	52	s	Lerwick	1.5	0.02	10	50	sh
Aviemore	3.5	0.01	9	48	s	Leuchars	6.9	-	10	50	s
Belfast	4.9	0.01	9	48	fg	Littlehmptn	7.4	-	12	54	s
Birmingham	6.5	-	11	52	s	London	7.9	-	12	54	s
Bognor R	8.6	-	12	54	s	Lowestoft	7.0	-	11	52	s
Bournem'th	6.9	-	13	55	s	Manchester	6.8	0.01	11	52	s
Bristol	7.3	-	13	55	s	Margate	7.4	0.01	11	52	s
Buxton	5.2	-	8	46	s	Minehead	7.1	-	14	57	s
Cardiff	5.1	-	11	52	fg	Morecambe	5.5	0.21	12	54	s
Clacton	8.1	-	10	50	s	Newcastle	7.1	0.02	12	54	s
Cleethorpes	6.1	-	11	52	s	Newquay	X				
Colwyn Bay	4.9	0.01	13	55	s	Norwich	7.9	-	10	50	s
Cromer	7.6	-	11	52	s	Penzance	X	0.01	14	57	s
Eastbourne	8.4	0.01	11	52	s	Poole	6.7	0.01	12	54	s
Eskdalemuir	4.3	0.07	9	48	sh	Prestatyn	X	0.03	10	50	s
Exmouth	7.2	-	13	55	s	Ross-o-wye	6.3	-	12	54	s
Falmouth	7.2	0.24	14	57	s	Saunton Sad	6.0	-	14	57	s
Fishguard	8.0	0.01	11	52	s	Scarboro'	6.9	0.01	9	48	s
Folkestone	8.4	-	13	55	s	Shrewsbury	6.9	-	12	54	s
Glasgow	4.1	0.02	13	55	sh	Skegness	7.7	-	10	50	s
Guernsey	0.2	0.70	12	54	sh	Southend	8.0	-	10	50	s
Hastings	7.4	-	13	55	s	Southsea	7.6	0.01	14	57	s
Herne Bay	7.4	-	10	50	s	Stornoway	1.4	0.22	9	48	sh
Hove	3.6	0.12	12	54	b	Swanage	8.0	-	12	54	s
Hunstanton	X	-	9	48	s	Teignmouth	6.9	-	13	55	s
Isle-of-Man	5.4	0.02	12	54	s	Tenby	5.8	0.05	11	52	sh
Isle-of-Wight	8.0	0.01	12	54	s	Torquay	7.3	0.01	14	57	s
Jersey	4.0	0.01	11	52	s	Weymouth	8.3	-	13	55	s

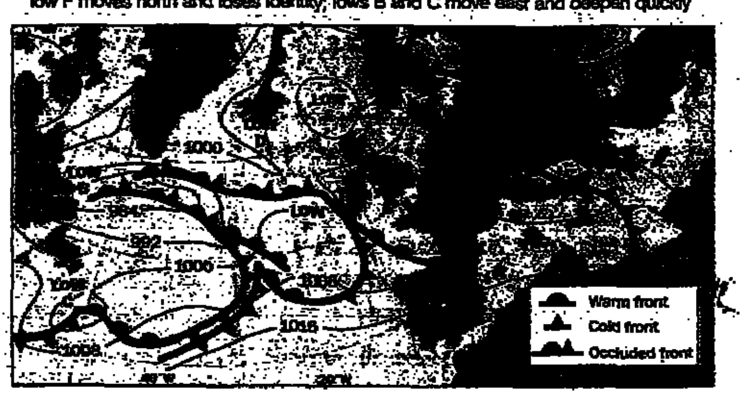
ABROAD

Ajaccio	18	64	t	Corfu	19	66	c	Majorca	21	70	s	Rome	19	66	c
Akrotiri	23	73	s	C'phagn	9	48	s	Malaga	20	68	s	S Fr'isco	14	57	r
Alex'dria	23	73	f	Dublin	9	48	s	Malta	22	72	f	S Paulo	X		
Algiers	21	70	s	Dubrovnik	19	66	s	Melb'rne	16	61	c	Salzburg	11	52	f
Amst'dm	9	48	c	Faro	19	66	f	Mexico C	17	63	d	Santiago	2	36	s
Athens	20	68	s	Florence	17	63	r	Miami	27	81	s	Seoul	18	65	s
B Aires	28	82	r	Frankfurt	10	50	f	Milan	11	52	s	Sing'por	29	84	f
Bahrain	27	81	s	Funchal	21	70	c	Montreal	2	36	s	St'kholm	7	45	f
Bangkok	35	95	f	Geneva	9	48	s	Moscow	1	34	c	Strasb'rg	9	48	f
Barbados	30	86	s	Gibraltar	17	63	s	Munich	12	54	s	Sydney	31	88	s
Barcelona	19	66	f	Helsinki	5	41	d	N Delhi	23	73	s	Tangier	19	66	f
Beirut	23	73	f	Hong K	23	73	s	N York	10	50	s	Tel Aviv	24	75	s
Belgrade	21	70	s	Innsbrck	8	46	f	Nairobi	25	77	f	Tenerife	24	75	f
Berlin	11	52	s	Istanbul	16	61	s	Naples	20	68	f	Tokyo	21	70	s
Bermuda	25	77	s	Jeddah	33	91	s	Nice	12	54	f	Toronto	3	37	f
Biarritz	11	52	r	Jo'burg	21	70	f	Oslo	8	46	d	Tunis	21	70	f
Borde'x	9	48	r	L Angels	16	61	r	Paris	9	48	r	Valencia	20	68	c
Brussels	7	45	r	L Palmas	24	75	f	Peking	10	50	f	Vanc'ver	8	46	s
Budapest	10	50	r	Le Touqt	9	48	f	Perth	25	77	s	Venice	X		
Cairo	24	75	f	Lisbon	16	61	c	Prague	6	43	c	Vienna	8	46	f
Cape Tn	24	75	s	Locarno	9	48	f	Reykjavik	1	34	s	Warsaw	5	41	fg
Ch'church	X			Luxembg	6	43	r	Rhodes	21	70	s	Wash'ton	11	52	c
Chicago	0	32	sn	Luxor	27	81	s	Rio de J	31	88	f	Wel'ngton	15	59	X
Cologne	10	50	c	Madrid	9	48	f	Riyadh	28	82	s	Zurich	9	48	f

Temperatures at midday local time on Tuesday X = not available



Changes to chart below from noon: lows E and G move slowly northeast with little change; low F moves north and loses identity; lows B and C move east and deepen quickly



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	00.13	7.3	12.32	7.2	Leith	00.46	5.6	13.20	5.8
Aberdeen	-	-	12.08	4.4	Liverpool	09.51	9.5	22.10	9.8
Avonmouth	05.44	13.1	18.10	13.6	Lowestoft	07.36	2.8	20.28	2.5
Belfast	09.37	3.6	21.54	3.6	Margate	10.21	4.8	23.08	4.8
Cardiff	05.30	12.1	17.56	12.6	Milford Haven	04.45	6.9	17.08	7.2
Devonport	04.15	5.5	16.36	5.8	Newquay	03.39	6.9	16.01	7.2
Dover	09.33	6.8	21.59	6.8	Oban	04.27	3.8	16.48	4.2
Dublin (N Wall)	10.22	4.2	22.31	4.4	Penzance	03.09	5.5	15.30	5.7
Falmouth	03.46	5.3	16.07	5.4	Portland	05.06	2.2	17.27	2.2
Greenock	11.10	3.5	23.37	3.7	Portsmouth	09.59	4.9	22.18	4.8
Harwich	10.20	4.0	22.55	4.2	Shoreham	09.41	6.4	22.05	6.3
Holyhead	08.57	5.7	21.11	5.9	Southampton	09.21	4.8	21.40	4.7
Hull (Albert D)	04.36	8.7	17.18	8.7	Swansea	04.54	9.8	17.18	9.9
Ilfracombe	04.30	9.2	16.54	9.6	Tees	01.54	5.5	14.32	5.5
King's Lynn	04.40	7.0	17.23	6.8	Walton-on-N	10.12	4.2	22.47	4.4

Yesterday: Highest day temp: St Catherine's Point, Isle of Wight, 15C (59F); lowest day max: Spadeadam, Cumbria, and Buxton, Derbyshire, 8C (46F); highest rainfall: Baltasound, Shetland, 0.79in; highest sunshine: Bognor Regis, West Sussex, 8.6hr.

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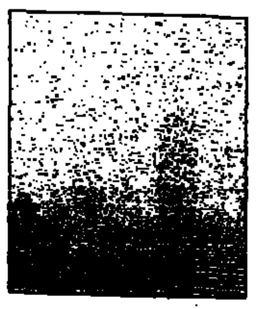

BUSINESS
Lessons for Europe from US stance on tackling pollution
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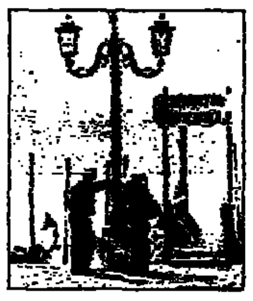


TRAVEL
Four nights in Venice for the price of three
PAGE 40

SPORT
Duff ready to throw in the towel
PAGES 41-48

TELEVISION AND RADIO
PAGES 46, 47

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft THURSDAY NOVEMBER 13 1997

Fed decides against a rise

By Janet Bush, economics editor

THE US Federal Reserve offered the world's battered stock markets a degree of comfort last night by deciding against a rise in American interest rates.

The news was widely expected. Despite some arguments for a rate rise on domestic economic grounds, the Fed has clearly decided that the timing was not auspicious.

The Fed did not want to exacerbate the continuing market crisis, which began in the Far East but has spread alarmingly around the world in recent weeks. The news initially appeared to leave Wall Street cold. In the minutes after the announcement, the Dow Jones industrial average dropped from a loss of around 40 points to a loss of 78 points.

Another slump in the Far East overnight had rattled stock markets around the world in the run-up to the Fed announcement. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index fell nearly 4 per cent and Tokyo's Nikkei lost nearly 3 per cent of its value to close at its lowest level for more than two years.

In London, the FTSE 100 index sank to its lowest level for four months, largely because of the heavy selling in the Far East. It closed with a loss of 1.5 per cent, down 73.3 points at 4,720.4.

Increasing concerns about the fragility of the Japanese economy, already weak but now further threatened by falling growth prospects in its key East Asian markets, have punished the yen. In contrast, the pound has been surging in response to strong economic growth and higher interest rates. Yesterday, sterling hit its highest level against the Japanese currency since September, 1992.

Bank may lift rates further

By our Economics Editor

THE Bank of England yesterday left the door open for further interest rate rises to slow the pace of economic growth and be sure of hitting the Government's 2.5 per cent inflation target.

Introducing the latest *Inflation Report*, Mervyn King, Director of Economics, said that the risks of missing the target had lessened because of last week's 0.25 per cent rise in base rates to 7.25 per cent. However, he added that the "risks were on the upside".

In August, when the Bank's Monetary Policy Committee last raised rates, it said that there would be a pause in the process of monetary tightening. Yesterday Mr King said: "We are not in a pause. The position that the committee took in August should be seen as an exception rather than the rule."

The Bank said that economic growth is running "well above any sustainable trend" and that there would have to be a period of below-trend growth to hit the inflation target. For the first time the Bank made a forecast for economic growth. It estimated that growth would peak at around 4 per cent at the end of this year and then fall sharply next year — although not to the point of recession.

Financial markets were cheered by news of a relatively modest decline in unemployment in October and, crucially, by a fall in average earnings growth in September. Both suggest that the economy may be starting to slow.

But Mr King said that if the slowdown does not start soon, inflationary pressures will build up and further action will be needed.

Signs of slowing, page 26

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4720.4	(-73.3)
Yield	3.45%	
FTSE All share	2243.58	(-32.16)
Nikkei	15434.17	(-433.06)
New York:		
Dow Jones	7536.87	(-21.86)*
S&P Composite	923.56	(-0.22)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	$5\frac{9}{16}$%*	(unq)
Long Bond	$99\frac{17}{32}$*	(....)
Yield	6.16%*	(....)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	$7\frac{5}{32}$%	($7\frac{5}{32}$%)
Liffe long gilt future (Dec)	$116\frac{21}{32}$	($117\frac{5}{8}$)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.7040*	(1.7038)
London:		
$	1.7062	(1.7039)
DM	2.9411	(2.9158)
FFr	9.8500	(9.7675)
SFr	2.3894	(2.3752)
Yen	214.77	(213.16)
£ Index	104.4	(103.6)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.7255*	(1.7095)
FFr	5.7785*	(5.7335)
SFr	1.4000*	(1.3915)
Yen	126.18*	(124.90)
$ Index	105.5	(105.1)

Tokyo close Yen 125.73

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jan)	$19.55	($19.60)

GOLD

London close	$308.45	($311.95)

* denotes midday trading price

Big pay rise

Partners of Ernst & Young achieved a 30 per cent rise in their average remuneration to £259,000 last year. Nick Land, senior partner, was paid a total of £515,902. Page 26

Market loss

The fall in the London stock market over the past six weeks has wiped almost £400 million off the value of Commercial Union's shareholders' funds, the composite insurer admitted yesterday. Page 31

Global alliance still on agenda at C&W

By Raymond Snoddy
Media editor

DICK BROWN, chief executive of Cable and Wireless, the telecommunications group, has said that the company is still looking at the possibility of a global alliance that could yet include BT and Concert, its international joint venture.

Announcing a 52 per cent increase in pre-tax profit to £1.1 billion for the six months to September 30, Mr Brown emphasised that he is not involved in active talks on global link-ups, despite the turmoil in telecoms markets. He said: "We don't want to talk about changing cloud patterns right now. We want to make Cable and Wireless work better."

Mr Brown announced that C&W plans to raise £1 billion over the next 12 months selling the minority stakes it holds in numerous telecoms businesses around the world. He declined to say which would be sold, other than to suggest that minority stakes in some African and South American companies would be included.

The £1 billion target did not include funds that could be raised through a further reduction of C&W's 54 per cent stake in Hongkong Telecom, Mr Brown said. He would consider reducing this interest to less than 50 per cent, but only if the equivalent value or better came from deals in China, he added.

"There is no gun to our head from the Chinese. If we don't think it is in our interests we don't have to do it," said Mr Brown.

The profit figure was influenced by the main exceptional in the half year — a £519 million gain on the sale of 5.4 per cent of Hongkong Telecom, although this was partly offset by a £200 million charge for the restructuring of Cable & Wireless Communications in the UK. Pre-tax profit before exceptional items rose 9 per cent to £797 million (14 per cent at constant exchange rates).

Earnings per share before exceptional items was 17.1p, up 6 per cent, and the dividend of 3.75p is up 10 per cent.

Tempus, page 28

BZW equities and advisory business sold for £100m

Richard Miles
Banking correspondent

CREDIT Suisse First Boston yesterday bought the equities and advisory business of BZW for £100 million — a price equal to two thirds of the operation's capital value and half its annual revenues.

Barclays said it had agreed with CSFB to transfer £150 million of BZW net assets and 960 employees, including 200 key executives who have signed contracts locking themselves in for three years.

The Swiss-owned investment bank is spending a further £50 million on these and other staff inducements as well as taking a £100 million restructuring charge. But Barclays will foot the bill for bonus payments, due in February. After cost savings, the deal will cost CSFB an estimated £175 million.

Stephen Hester, chief financial officer of CSFB, admitted the £100 million price looked low compared with recent City speculation. "A more relevant comparison is that the figure is just half of BZW's revenues for the year. When Travelers bought Salomons, it paid two-and-a-half times the value of the revenues," he said.

Mr Hester said that none of the chief individuals at BZW's equities and advisory business had turned down CSFB's offer, and only five people in total had rejected the deal.

Martin Taylor, chief executive of Barclays, said he was not disappointed at the result, describing the sale as "at a fair price to both parties". He argued that the business sold to CSFB accounted for only half BZW's total business, and the Asian and Australasian operations remained on sale.

He added: "In financial terms, this has been an almost trivial deal for Barclays." The entire BZW business accounts for just 5 per cent of the group's revenues. However, the sale is likely to show up as a loss when recorded in the 1997 accounts.

BZW employees were less enthralled with the terms of the deal. One director said: "If you want to be very sensitive, this deal means the people are valued at minus £50 million. That's not very flattering."

City analysts were nearly unanimous in their verdict that CSFB had gained a bargain. One said: "They have got this on the cheap: we reckoned about £200 million for this 50 per cent of the business. But now that Barclays is relatively clean, there are no excuses for Martin Taylor. He has to come up with a forward strategy."

The fate of nearly 2,000 BZW back-office staff has yet to be decided. Meanwhile, Barclays will provide support services to CSFB for an unspecified fee. Many of these employees will eventually find fresh posts within one of the two banks, although there will be some job losses.

CSFB is also taking a small part of BZW's equities derivatives business. However, the rump, including £110 million of capital, will be subsumed within Barclays Capital, the bank's fixed income operation.

Commentary, page 27

Andrew Buxton, chairman of Barclays, left, and Martin Taylor, chief executive, agreed with CSFB to transfer £150 million of BZW net assets

Care First rejects bid by Bupa

By Paul Durman

CARE FIRST, the nursing home company recently troubled by boardroom disputes, is hoping that a revival in its profits and the interest of other potential bidders will defeat a £241 million takeover bid from Bupa, the health insurance and hospitals group.

Care First, formed from last year's merger of Takare and Court Cavendish, said it had already received expressions of interest from other parties. It believes that increased government funding and rising occupancy of its newly completed homes justify an offer nearer 200p a share, rather than the 150p that Bupa is offering.

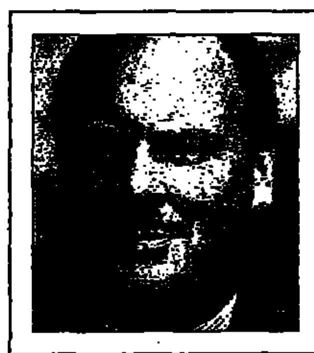
Keith Bradshaw, the chairman, who was recently forced to relinquish executive duties in Care First, said: "I am going to do a damn good job to demonstrate the value that exists in this company." The maturing of the new homes — accounting for 1,700 of its 12,500 beds — would have a "dramatic effect" on results, he said.

However, Peter Jacobs, Bupa chief executive, said that his offer had taken into account the improving profitability. He doubted that other serious bidders would emerge.

Success would make Bupa the UK's largest care home company, with 211 homes and 16,000 beds. Bupa's offer is backed by the 11.8 per cent of Care First owned by Abbey Life and Invesco Asset Management. The two institutions opposed Mr Bradshaw in his tussle with Chai Patel, Care First's former chief executive.

Bupa's offer is 49 per cent higher than the price of Care First shares before it approached the company a month ago. It is about 17 times forecasts of 1998 earnings.

Bupa expansion, page 29



Michael Clark, left, stock market correspondent of *The Times*, has been presented with the stock market writer of the year award. The Inchcape Falshaw award, in memory of the late Tony Falshaw, of the *Daily Mail*, is judged by City stockbrokers and fund managers. It was presented by Philip Cushing, chief executive of Inchcape.

Etam agrees to £88m French takeover

By Fraser Nelson

ETAM, the troubled women's wear chain, has agreed to an £88.8 million cash takeover from its French namesake in a move that heralds a relaunch of its 215 high street stores.

Etam Développement, a separate company which floated in Paris three months ago, has tabled an ambitious recovery plan for the UK chain by investing heavily in more fashionable clothes ranges.

It has defeated a rival takeover attempt from New Look, the UK fashion chain that had been hoping to agree a reverse takeover and deploy a heavy cost-cutting programme to return the company to the black.

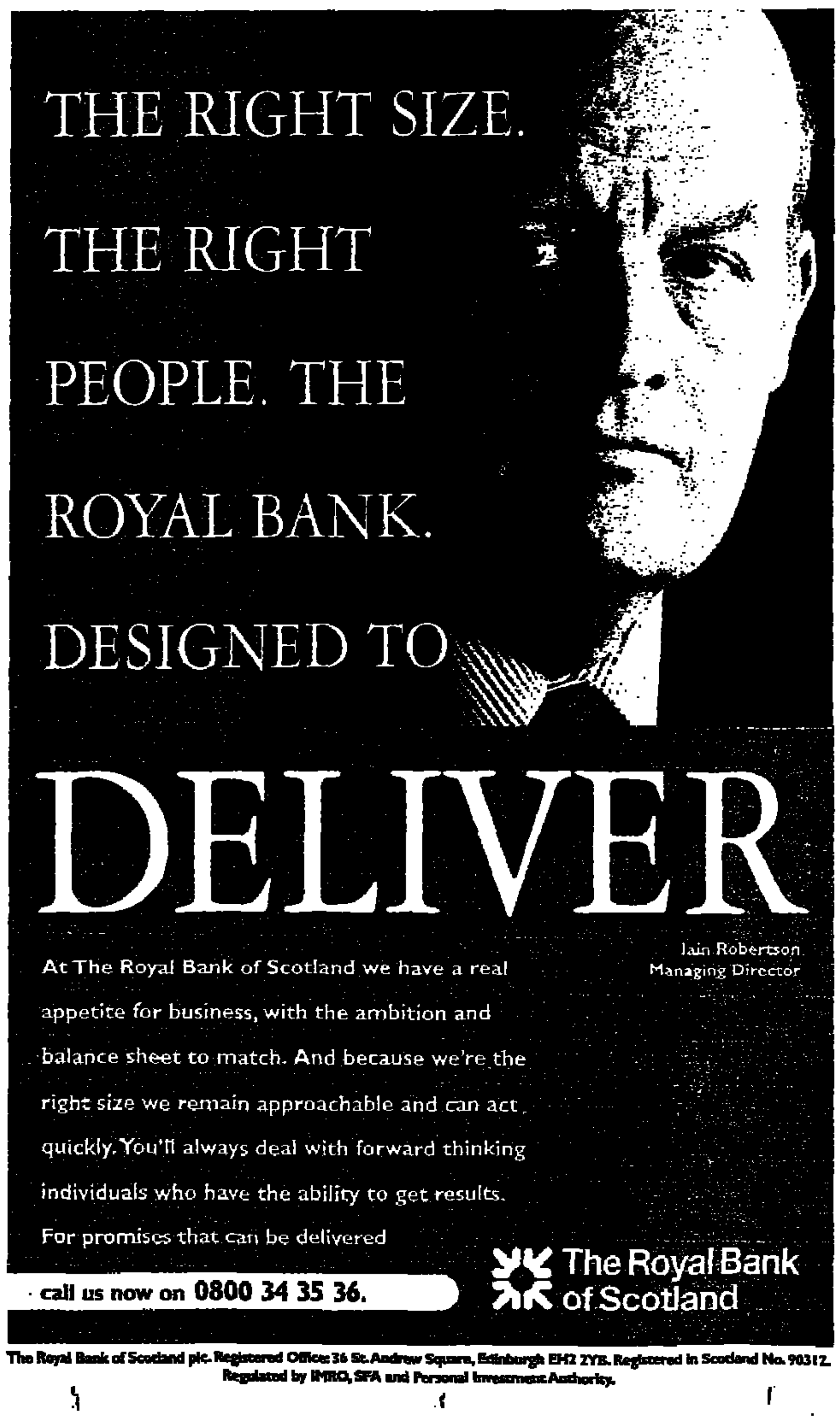
Etam's UK shops will come under the joint control of Jacques Levy, widely credited with turning around Etam France, and Nick Hollingworth, Etam's chief executive.

City analysts suspected that Mr Hollingworth will play second fiddle to M Levy. Richard Ratner, from Butterfield Securities, said: "M Levy is a marketing whiz-kid and, if he's going to be head of UK operations, it's hard to see what's going to be left for Mr Hollingworth."

Etam received the cash offer last weekend at a 15 per cent premium to its then share price of 118½p. Etam shares, which have plunged from 205p to 120p since last year, rose to 133½p yesterday — just below the 135p cash offer. Etam Développement is offering an all-shares alternative by trading 27 of its shares for every Etam share — which it says would be valued at 145p a share.

However, until its shares return from suspension, the value of the paper option will remain obscured. The deal was given a mixed reception in Paris yesterday, as analysts pointed out that Etam Développement will be lumbered with the UK chain's 28 million debt. However, the French company had aimed at generating 30 per cent of its sales from the UK within five years. The deal will lift this from 15 per cent to 40 per cent in one stroke.

Etam France was set up by Max Lindemann in 1928, who had founded Etam UK five years earlier. The two companies said they had been in on-off takeover talks for the past three years.



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مركز الاهرام

Job market recovery shows signs of slowing

By Philip Bassett
Industrial Editor

BRITAIN'S labour market recovery showed signs of slowing yesterday, with unemployment registering its smallest drop for 18 months and average earnings growth falling back. Unemployment among women actually rose in October, with the number out of work and claiming benefit increasing in all but one of the regions of the UK.

Average earnings growth fell back slightly, by a quarter of a point, to 4.25 per cent. While Whitehall said there were no special reasons behind the fall, the fact that it was driven by manufacturing may reflect the impact of the strength of the pound. With the smaller fall in unemployment, some City analysts saw it as a signal of some slowing in the economy.

Whitehall officials suggested that the overall fall in seasonally adjusted claimant unemployment of 9,500, which was much lower than in previous recent months, may well have been a seasonal effect to do with students. Government economists said the labour market continued to show strong improvement, with Andrew Smith, the Employment Minister, saying he was delighted to see the combination of falling unemployment and stable earnings growth continuing. Mr Smith will launch the Government's pilot for its Welfare to Work programme today.

But John Monks, the TUC General Secretary, said: "These figures are disappointing and indicate that labour market recovery is slowing. With earnings growth also slowing, it is clear the recent rise in interest rates was premature." The fall was the smallest since April last year, when it dropped by 4,300. Since then, the monthly claimant count has seen some huge drops — notably a 95,400 decline a year ago — with the introduction of the Conservative Government's jobseeker's allowance to replace unemployment benefit.

The 9,500 fall compares with declines of 21,600 and 49,800 in the previous months. Officials from the Government's Office for National Statistics said they still estimated the current average monthly rate of fall at 15,000 to 35,000.

Male unemployment fell 13,900, but unemployment among women rose 4,400 overall. Regionally, every area except London saw an increase in female unemployment.

The Government was challenged over the figures by the Liberal Democrats, who accused ministers of failing to improve the basis of the unemployment data, despite pledging to do so when in opposition. Paul Keetch, employment spokesman, said it was a "sorry state of affairs".

Partners to pay price at merging accountants

By Robert Bruce

PARTNERS of Ernst & Young, which proposes to merge with KPMG to form the UK's largest accountancy firm, achieved a 30 per cent rise in average earnings to £259,000 last year.

But Nick Land, senior partner, who was paid a total of £515,902, gave warning that future earnings will be adversely affected by future investment associated with the proposed merger. Mr Land said: "The merger will cost this generation of partners. Partners retiring just after the last merger were really screwed. Their income was down and their pension contributions were down. But it's a long-term game."

The motivation behind the proposed merger with KPMG is to share the huge projected sums that the firms believe they must invest to secure their prominent position. This suggests that there will be some real short-term pain for the partners.

Mr Land predicted that the future investment needs of the merged firm would be "comfortably in excess of half a billion dollars a year" and that the rationale behind the merger was that, at present, the firms are unable to invest as quickly as they would like.

He was optimistic about the likelihood of regulators allowing the proposed merger to go ahead, and he pointed out that "the choice of competitors in most of our markets are not accounting firms".

Ernst & Young said that UK fee income rose 15 per cent to £525 million last year and the average profit per partner increased 30 per cent to £259,000.

Mr Land said: "This has been a year of exceptional progress for our firm."

The firm claims to now be the largest tax practice in the UK, with a 14 per cent rise in fees to £159 million. The rest of the growth was powered by management consultancy, up by 40 per cent to £108 million; business assurance, which includes audit, up by 7 per cent to £181 million; and corporate finance, up 24 per cent to £47 million.

Corporate recovery services slipped back by 5 per cent to £31 million, a reflection of the strong economy.

For the first time Ernst & Young's figures are shown on a five-year basis. This reveals that partners' earnings dipped during the last recession but it was a mere blip compared to what may lie ahead.

The figures showed that an average partner's profit for 1994 was £177,000, but the figure dipped to £171,000 in 1995.

Schroders wants Vickers to keep Rolls

By Jason Nissé

SCHRODERS Investment Management, the largest shareholder in Vickers with more than 19 per cent, has said it would prefer the company to hold onto Rolls-Royce rather than sell the luxury carmaker cheaply to BMW.

The comments, by Jim Cox, Schroders' head of investment, follow the decision by Mayflower Corporation not to proceed with its planned bid for Vickers. Mayflower, a supplier of automotive products to BMW, had been told by the German carmaker that it would terminate its deal to make engines for Rolls-Royces if Mayflower went ahead with its bid.

The German move is seen by industry experts as putting BMW in pole positon to buy Rolls-Royce. A price of around £400 million was expected before Mayflower intervened.

The City, though, is worried that BMW will offer less. "If Vickers sells Rolls-Royce too cheaply to BMW I would be unhappy," Mr Cox said yesterday. Vickers shares fell 18p to 235½p yesterday.

Commentary, page 27

Joining forces: Nick Land, left, of Ernst & Young, and Colin Sharman, of KPMG, after confirming plans to merge

Eurotunnel may cut lorry tariff

By Jason Nissé

EUROTUNNEL is believed to have offered to cut prices on freight traffic in order to persuade the British and French Governments to allow it to have the 34-year extension to its operating licence.

The tunnel group won shareholders' support for its £8.6 billion debt restructuring and is close to winning support from its 179 banks, despite not securing a deal to extend the licence. Only five banks have yet to sign up formally although they have agreed the refinancing in principle.

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, said earlier this year that any extension would be conditional on deals being struck to give the Governments a share of Eurotunnel's profits, once it becomes profitable, and for Eurotunnel to promote freight traffic through the tunnel.

John Noulton, Eurotunnel's director of public affairs, said yesterday that the company had made some proposals to the French and British Governments on promoting freight.

Asked if this included price cuts — something Eurotunnel previously said was out of the question — Mr Noulton replied: "Pass."

Eurotunnel, however, is planning to increase prices for tourists for next summer by up to 10 per cent. It said yesterday that the new prices would be published next month and the pricing stategy assumes that the European Commission will allow the cross-Channel ferry operations of P&O and Stena to merge.

Third-quarter turnover figures for Eurotunnel, released yesterday, disappointed City analysts, showing a slight increase to £132 million at constant exchange rates. Tourist traffic fell by 30,000 vehicles to 727,000 and frieght volumes fell a third to 107,000 lorries.

However, Eurotunnel said it was on target to meet its revenue predictions for this year and was aggressively cutting costs. One example is a fresh order for Le Shuttle trains which will cost £22 million each, compared with a cost of £65 million for the trains currently used on the service.

Price war will go on, says Murdoch

By Chris Ayres

RUPERT MURDOCH, chairman and chief executive of The News Corporation, yesterday said that he would not call an end to the newspaper price war between the UK titles owned by News International, a subsidiary of News Corp, and their rivals.

Mr Murdoch said: "No way will I call a truce. No one else wants to call a truce, they insult me every day, so they can go to hell. People don't seem to like competition much in this country."

Mr Murdoch added that he had not made any political donations during the general election, throughout which *The Sun*, owned by News International, had supported the Labour Party. He said: "Not a penny, to Blair, or the Conservative Party or any other party." News International also owns *The Times*.

He made the comments after the annual meeting of British Sky Broadcasting, the satellite venture 40 per cent owned by News International.

Mr Murdoch, a director of BSkyB, also expressed his doubts over the future of pay-per-view football matches. "Pay-per-view throughout the world has only worked in a big way for huge boxing matches," he said. "When it comes to a more regular basis it is much more difficult."

Growth 'may hit BSkyB's shares'

By Chris Ayres

GERRY ROBINSON, chairman of British Sky Broadcasting, the satellite television company, yesterday said that its share price could be further weakened during a period of uncertainty caused by a move to proceed with plans to create 200 digital television channels.

His comments were made at BSkyB's annual meeting after shareholders had expressed concern over the share price, down from from 662½p earlier this year to 416p. Yesterday, the price fell a further 10¼p to 405¾p. BSkyB is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*.

Mr Robinson said: "There is always vulnerability when you're introducing something new. Clearly we are the most successful pay-TV company in the world, but when you set out on a new venture there are risks associated with it as well as opportunities."

Yesterday, BSkyB reported a 7 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £62 million (£66 million), for the three months to September 30, on turnover up 24 per cent at £330 million (£266 million). Earnings fell from 3.9p to 3.3p a share.

The fall in profits was blamed mainly on a 34 per cent rise in operating costs, from £187 million to £251 million. This was caused by the renewal of BSkyB's rights to broadcast live Premier League football matches, and the costs of setting up new channels and a digital service.

However, BSkyB said that costs had been offset by growing subscription revenues, with the number of subscribers up by 129,000 to 6.5 million. It added that the launch of its digital television service next spring would benefit from a marketing and promotion deal it had signed with Cable and Wireless Communications.

BSkyB confirmed that the subsidised price of digital decoders would be less than £200 for existing subscribers.

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Pentagon veteran for Boeing

From Oliver August
in New York

WILLIAM PERRY, the former US Defence Secretary, has joined the board of Boeing, the aerospace and defence group, only ten months after leaving the Pentagon.

The controversial appointment could rekindle the war of words with Airbus, the European consortium that includes British Aerospace. Industry insiders see the appointment as a "golden thank you for services rendered".

Perry: urged mergers

Mr Perry, 70, is known as the godfather of the newly consolidated US defence sector. In 1993, he gathered industry chiefs at a legendary dinner at the White House. He encouraged them to merge to cut procurement costs and told them that the US Government would ignore antitrust considerations. Four years after the so-called Last Supper, only three of the dozen-plus companies are left over.

Completing the mega-mergers, Boeing this summer took over McDonnell Douglas, primarily a defence company. Airbus was highly critical of the marriage of a commercial plane maker and an arms manufacturer. It fears that McDonnell's government defence research funds will be used to subsidise Boeing's commercial planes.

Mr Perry's appointment is seen by industry-watchers as evidence that the Chinese walls between Boeing's aerospace and defence businesses are, at best, knee-high. The EU Commission had threatened to block the McDonnell takeover and only relented after Boeing agreed to erect administrative barriers between arms manufacturing and planemaking.

Airbus declined to comment on the appointment. A Boeing spokesman said: "William Perry also sits on other boards, like United Technologies. He has a lot of different talents. He has experience in academia, industry and government. He is also an entrepreneur who started his own company."

Mr Perry, Defence Secretary from 1994 until this year, will not be allowed to hold official posts in Boeing's procurement division, but will act as a corporate lobbyist in the US and in countries depending on US protection.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

RJB blames 400 job cuts on uncertainty

FOUR hundred jobs are being cut because of uncertainty in the coal industry, mining chiefs confirmed yesterday. The jobs will be lost at Maltby Colliery, Rotherham, South Yorkshire, which is owned by RJB Mining. The company, which warned last month that there would be severe cuts at the pit, has already axed 50 jobs at the Prince of Wales Colliery, Pontefract, West Yorkshire, and 45 at Thoresby Colliery, Nottinghamshire. Most of the men who will lose their jobs at Maltby, which has a 640-strong workforce, are employed by two contracting companies.

An RJB spokesman blamed the uncertainty caused by contract negotiations with power companies and the strong pound making foreign coal more competitive. He said: "Because of the uncertainty in the coal industry about contracts it's a prudent step to stop work on developing new reserves we may not need. "We can re-start operations if necessary — all the equipment has been left in place." Jeff Stubbs, Maltby Colliery NUM delegate, said the reason was that the Government was not helping the industry. "They are leaving us with no market," he said. "Everyone at the pit is understandably depressed about it all."

SunAlliance £75m deal

ROYAL & SUNALLIANCE has agreed to buy a 40 per cent stake in Seguros de Vida La Construcción for about £75 million. La Construcción is the third largest Chilean life insurer, with premium income of £67.5 million last year and net assets of £34 million. Royal said £34 million of the cash payment would take the form of new equity in La Construcción. The deal includes an option for Royal to increase its holding to 51 per cent after December 31, 1998 and call options whereby it could buy 100 per cent.

Channel 5 chief switches

DAVID BROOK, the marketing and communications director of Channel 5, is on the move again 18 months after leaving *The Guardian* to take responsibility for the launch promotion of the new channel. Mr Brook has been poached by Michael Jackson, the new chief executive of Channel 4, and is to become director of strategy and development at Channel 4. Apart from overseeing both consumer marketing and promotion, the former newspaper executive will take charge of Channel 4's digital channels.

Arena's aim for course

ARENA LEISURE, owner of the Lingfield Park all-weather racecourse, is negotiating to acquire a 60-year lease on Brighton racecourse from the local authority. Graham Parr, Arena's chief executive, said that it planned a £10 million-plus redevelopment of the course, including a new grandstand and a sports bar. Arena almost doubled pre-tax profits to £209,000 in the half year to August 31 because of a contribution from Lingfield Park, bought in June. There is no interim dividend. The shares, placed in June at 10p, held at 20¼p.

Low-income gas move

BRITISH GAS'S prices for low-income customers may be cut in January, the industry regulator said yesterday. The move would overturn the company's decision to cut gas prices by 9 per cent for all customers except those using pre-payment meters, who, it says, cost more to service. Clare Spottiswoode said a review could trigger price cuts after Martin O'Neill, chairman of the Commons Trade and Industry Committee, said it was "wrong that regulators chose for ideological reasons to duck out of social or environmental responsibilities".

Northern Rock rate rise

ANOTHER major lender yesterday increased its mortgage rate following the Abbey National's lead. Northern Rock has raised its standard variable rate by 0.25 per cent to 8.70 per cent, with effect from December 1 for existing customers. The Abbey's new rates range between 8.70 per cent and 8.60 per cent, depending on the amount borrowed. The increases are a response to the Bank of England's decision to raise the bank base rate 0.25 per cent to 7.25 per cent. A Halifax spokesman said that the bank was still "considering its options".

Jurys Inn expands

JURYS HOTEL GROUP has unveiled plans to develop its economy Jurys Inn division in Edinburgh and Manchester at a total cost to the Dublin-based company of £17 million. The Edinburgh hotel, due to open next summer, will have 190 bedrooms at about £65 a room. Jurys has signed a 25-year lease and will invest £3 million. It has acquired a site in Manchester subject to planning permission. Total development costs are around £14 million. The group is looking for further sites for the Jurys Inn brand in Birmingham, Leeds and London.

Lubricants plant to close

BP and Mobil are to close their jointly operated lubricants plant at Llandarcy, near Swansea, with the loss of 400 jobs. The closure, due to be completed by 1999, is a further blow to the oil industry in South Wales which has suffered a series of cutbacks in refining at Milford Haven, Dyfed. The 270 staff and 130 contractors at Llandarcy will start to leave from mid-1998. Swansea docks, which handled products for the Llandarcy plant, will also lose business as a result of the closure.

Oil terminal opened

THE Azerbaijan International Operating Company, a consortium including BP, Exxon, Amoco and Russia's Lukoil, officially opened the $70 million (£41 million) Sangachal oil terminal, which is expected to be able to handle 40 million tonnes of oil annually within ten years. The terminal is 50 kilometres south of Baku, the capital. The AIOC aims to export 5 million tonnes annually by 2002 through a pipeline to Novorossiisk in Russia and through another crossing Georgia to the south.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.56	2.38
Austria Sch	21.62	19.96
Belgium Fr	63.84	58.88
Canada $	2.527	2.339
Cyprus Cyp£	0.905	0.833
Denmark Kr	11.74	10.85
Finland Mkk	9.39	8.64
France Fr	10.29	9.51
Germany Dm	3.09	2.85
Greece Dr	486	447
Hong Kong $	14.01	12.81
Iceland	128	108
Ireland Pt	1.19	1.09
Israel Shk	6.34	5.69
Italy Lira	3044	2807
Japan Yen	229.73	212.20
Malta	0.684	0.625
Netherlds Gld	3.495	3.200
New Zealand $	2.88	2.65
Norway Kr	12.58	11.65
Portugal Esc	311.53	289.50
S Africa Rd	8.94	7.96
Spain Pta	258.79	240.00
Sweden Kr	13.80	12.50
Switzerland Fr	2.54	2.32
Turkey Lira	325046	305167
USA $	1.812	1.669

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Why the old guard must go

COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Wherever Martin Taylor's career should take him, it is highly unlikely that he will ever be in demand as a negotiator. The deal that was clinched with Credit Suisse First Boston yesterday was a glaring testimony to which party was calling the shots. By declaring his determination to pull out of large areas of investment banking, and doing away with the services of the chief executive, Mr Taylor put himself under terrible time constraints. When it became clear it was the only potential purchaser left in the orchard, CSFB took full advantage of the opportunity to cherry pick.

Despite Mr Taylor's valiant efforts to maintain that he is not disappointed with the deal, the price is miserly and it has not even brought the clean break for which he must have hoped. Sorting out the 2,000 back-office staff still has the makings of a messy and expensive exercise.

The ignominious end to the BZW dream will bring shivers to others in the City. National Westminster has avoided the Taylor trap by refusing to commit itself to selling NatWest Markets but if the CSFB deal establishes a guide price, it is now more likely to remain wedded to the idea of keeping the equity business and merely cutting costs.

And having watched Barclays extravagant people-buying spree, there should now be some querying of the real value of individuals. If Bill Harrison and a few of his colleagues had pooled their bonuses, they could easily have outbid CSFB but they sensibly kept their wallets shut. Mr Harrison, bought with a £1 million salary and a guaranteed bonus of almost as much to head BZW, made many dealers wealthy men but what value did it all create for Barclays?

Taylor was increasingly uncomfortable with the high salary packages being awarded and this was one of the factors that influenced his decision to stop trying to create an investment bank. He has undoubtedly tarnished his brilliant reputation with the way that exit has been conducted but, as he pointed out yesterday, the deal was trivial in relation to Barclays as a whole.

Now, if he is to regain his image as one of the top leaders in British business, he is going to have to make Barclays motor. Already he has drastically improved the profitability of the bank, but, with competition mounting, he faces a real challenge. He has pinpointed the need for the bank to be more customer orientated, but there are many who doubt whether he can achieve his aims without a radical restructuring of the hierarchy. There are still key people in the upper echelons of Barclays who, in their early days with the bank, were forced to spend time each morning perfecting their copper plate. Mr Taylor has been loathe to move them out, but change is hard to accomplish when the old guard is so much in evidence. Having been bloodied by the BZW deal, he may now feel ready to take a tougher line with the main business.

Life exists outside Europe

Britain's exporters appear to be far more doughty than their representatives suggest. While organisations such as the CBI wail about the hardships of living with a strong currency, their members have been admirably nimble on their feet.

According to a fascinating statistical snippet in the Bank of England's *Inflation Report*, British firms have tried to mitigate the effects of sterling's strength by redirecting their exports to those markets with stronger growth and where the pound's appreciation has been less pronounced. So it is that the best export performance has been not only with America, whose strong recovery offers obviously rich pickings, but also in less obvious markets in the Middle East, Latin America, Asia-Pacific and Eastern Europe.

If any proof were needed that Britain is not hopelessly dependent on the markets of its European partners, net exports to France and Germany, traditionally accounting for a quarter of all Britain's exports, have been negligible. Of the 6.6 per cent growth in export volumes in the year to the second quarter, exports to France and Germany accounted for virtually none of it.

Europhiles argue that trade with the European Union is now so important to Britain that only membership of the single currency will stave off economic disaster. But it is clear that British exporters are able successfully to tap into markets much further afield, courtesy of well-established trading ties across the world.

Britain's excellent trading performance in the face of a 20 per cent appreciation in sterling over the past year also attests to industry's ability to cope with wild swings in the exchange rate. This, too, suggests that life outside the single currency, even if it entails great volatility in the value of the pound, would not be the unmitigated disaster that euro fans would have us believe.

The Bank is relying on the strength of sterling to slow the economy to a more sustainable pace. The apparent resilience of exports suggests that other depressants might be required. Further rises in interest rates are now being priced into the market and the Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank of England will certainly have found encouragement in the report to feel that it could move again next month. A rise in taxes rather than interest rates might be a more reasonable respone but the Government has precluded that option.

BMW in the driving seat

Vickers did not even have to train its big guns on Mayflower to blow it out of the water, for BMW's intervention has prevented the tankmaker from having to defend a bid.

Mayflower knew that it had to persuade its major customer, BMW, to stand aside from the battle if its audacious plan was to succeed but, in the event, BMW has clearly signalled that it is not going to let its upstart supplier get its hands on Rolls-Royce.

Mayflower hopes its withdrawal will mean it maintains its good commercial relationship with BMW. And why shouldn't it? By precipitating the skirmish, Mayflower has enabled BMW to warn off any other potential bidders for Rolls-Royce and clear the way for its own takeover of the luxury marque.

The German company has the dual advantages of having the pre-requisite blessing of the Rolls Royce aero-engine company and of being a pivotal supplier to Rolls-Royce cars, which do not go far without their BMW made engines.

This would appear to put BMW firmly in the driving seat in taking Vickers to its desired disposal of RR. This is unlikely to make BMW feel generous. Will the price Vickers can get for Rolls-Royce fall from £400 million to £300 million or less? This is something Sir Colin Chandler must guard against. Investors who have suffered a 50 per cent decline in Vickers value, relative to the engineering sector, before the Mayflower bid, will not swallow a RR giveaway now.

Watching brief

SCHRODERS has been poring over Hambros for almost six months to come up with a solution to the group's problems. Sadly, they were unable to produce anything to make Sir Chips Keswick a more popular man as he announced some dismal figures yesterday. Westdeutsche Landesbank may still be keen on buying the banking business, despite its fading profits, but perhaps they wanted to see the CSFB deal before talking price.

City cool as Hambros profits leap

By Richard Miles, banking correspondent

HAMBROS, the investment bank, yesterday failed to convince the City that its fortunes are on the mend, in spite of a 51 per cent leap in pre-tax profits for the first half of the year.

Shares in Hambros fell by 12½p, to 245p, after banking analysts complained that the company had been too "tight-lipped" about its on-going review of operations.

Sir Chips Keswick, chairman of the Hambros group, declined to comment on the progress of the review, although he indicated that a quick conclusion would be in shareholders' interests.

Hambros invited Schroders to conduct the strategic review several months ago after some shareholders, most notably Regent Pacific, the Hong Kong fund manager, expressed dissatisfaction with the bank's performance.

Schroders is investigating whether Hambros should be broken up, or even sold. Reports at the weekend of an informal approach for the banking business by Westdeutsche Landes, a German bank, have been played down by both parties.

One much-touted possibility is for Hambros to hive off Countrywide, its estate agency business, and Hambro Insurance Services. The bank's majority stakes in the two companies generate more than 60 per cent of its current pre-tax profits.

In the six months to September 30, pre-tax profits of Hambros rose to £52.9 million, against £35 million for the same period in 1996. The banking business improved to £6.5 million, from £4.1 million, but profits in the investment management arm slipped to £18.3 million, from £20.4 million.

Sir Chips was equally reticent about the bank's involvement in Andrew Regan's ill-fated bid for the Co-operative Wholesale Society, saying that he had apologised and made restitution. Although the bank has never disclosed the size of the payment to CWS, it is thought to be less than £4 million.

Tempus, page 28

Powerful recovery by generator

By George Sivell

BRITISH ENERGY, the nuclear power generator, pleased the City with a first half pre-tax profit of £4 million, a sharp turnaround from the previous £53 million loss.

Brokers had expected less from the normally quiet first half and upgraded forecasts for the full year from £90 million to £120 million. The shares rose 10½p to 382½p, short of the high of 436p reached earlier this year but way above the 198p paid by small investors who applied for shares in July 1996.

Electricity output rose 4.4 per cent although wholesale prices in the pool mechanism fell 8 per cent. British Energy benefited from savings in fuel costs arising from renegotiated contracts with BNFL.

The half-year dividend rises 5.5 per cent to 4.9p from earnings of 0.4p (4.6p loss). Brokers expect a share buyback next year.

Energy says gas drive is warming up

By Paul Durman

THE Energy Group, which is awaiting a Monopolies and Mergers Commission verdict on a £3.7 billion recommended takeover by PacifiCorp of America, claims to be taking about a quarter of the retail gas customers who have switched from British Gas.

John Devaney, chairman of Eastern, Energy's UK power business, said that the group is already supplying cheaper gas to 500,000 customers taking advantage of the roll-out of competition in the gas market.

Energy made first-half operating profits of £187 million, down from a pro forma comparison of £196 million. A £112 million windfall tax payment, and increased interest payments stemming from Energy's demerger from Hanson, led to an after-tax loss of £34 million, against a £113 million profit last year. Energy is to pay an interim dividend of 8p on January 9.

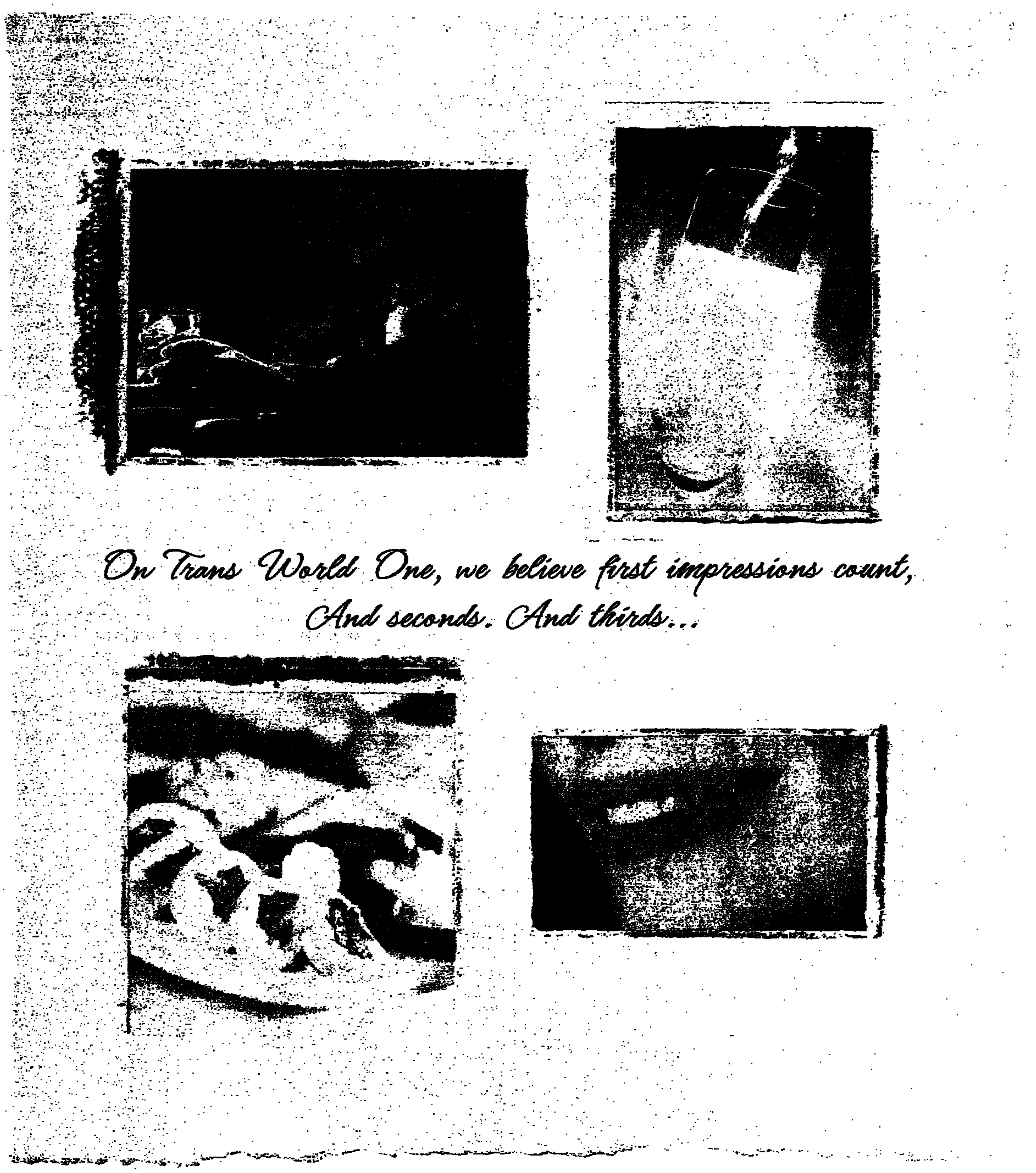
Taylor Nelson in talks to buy Sofres

By Raymond Snoddy, media editor

TAYLOR NELSON AGB, the UK market research group, confirmed yesterday that it was in advanced negotiations to buy Sofres of France, the sixth largest marketing information group in the world.

The deal, which is likely to be worth about £130 million, would make Taylor Nelson, the world's fifth largest market research group. It would be the British group's largest acquisition and part of its strategy to become a global player in the market research and information field. The company, which is capitalised at about £140 million, has even been looking at a cautious return to the North American market after the disaster suffered by AGB, its predecessor, a decade ago.

Any deal would be funded by a combination of debt and equity. The equity component would be provided in part by a rights issue and in part by a subscription of shares by Fimalac Communications, the main shareholder in Sofres.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STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

London stays calm in face of Far East falls

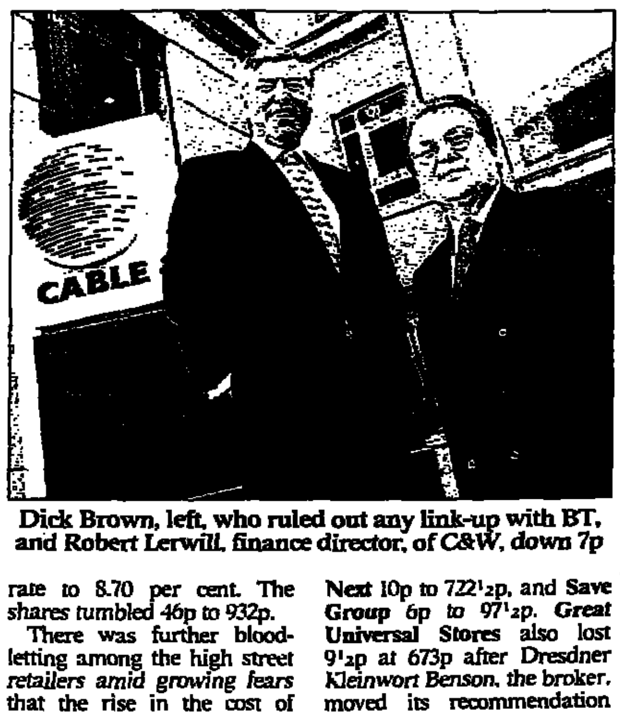
CITY investors were treated to another volatile performance, with fresh sell-offs overnight in the Far East leaving equities *and gilts sharply lower.*

The outcome could have been a lot worse. But the *refusal of American investors* to be panicked by the latest turn of events saw the Dow Jones industrial average pare back earlier losses of 88 points, enabling London to close above its low of the day. The FTSE 100 index finished 73.3 down at 4,720.4, having been 113.3 down at one stage.

Once again turnover was on the low side, with 719 million shares changing hands. Investors are proving reluctant to open fresh positions ahead of the conclusion of the Federal Open Market Committee meeting. There is clearly mounting pressure for fresh *rises in rates on both sides of* the Atlantic. The latest average earnings and unemploy*ment statistics were seen as* positive, as was the Bank of England's quarterly inflation report. But they failed to improve sentiment.

BT was again heavily traded, with turnover reaching 14.47 million shares as the price rose 3p to 459½p. **Tradepoint**, the publicly quoted rival to the Stock Exchange, claimed another victory with 3.8 million of those shares traded on its order driven system. Tradepoint finished 4½p down at 103p.

Cable & Wireless fell 7p to 478p after weighing in with half-year figures. Dick Brown, chief executive, confirmed the group was still looking for a global partner, but ruled out any link-up with BT after its failure to merge with MCI.



Dick Brown, left, who ruled out any link-up with BT, and Robert Lerwill, finance director, of C&W, down 7p

Commercial Union was the worst performing stock among the top 100 companies, dropping 55p, or 6.8 per cent, to 745p with brokers expressing disappointment over its net asset value. A similar reception was given to **General Accident**, down 27p at 945p, earlier in the week.

Those overnight losses that saw both the Hang Seng and the Nikkei suffer falls of around 4 per cent, impinged on the usual clutch of companies with interests there. **HSBC** dropped 34p to £13.82, with **Standard Chartered** off 12p at 611½p, and **Inchcape** 5p lower at 214p.

A lukewarm reception was given to the move by **Abbey National** to raise its mortgage rate to 8.70 per cent. The *shares tumbled* 46p to 932p.

There was further bloodletting among the high street *retailers amid growing fears* that the rise in the cost of borrowing will curb spending *in the run-up to* Christmas.

Argos dropped 12p to 648½p, **House of Fraser** 9½p to 192½p, **Kingfisher** 10½p to 817½p, **Dixons** 25p to 665p, **Next** 10p to 722½p, and **Save Group** *6p to 97½p.* **Great Universal Stores** also lost 9½p at 673p after Dresdner *Kleinwort Benson*, the broker, moved its recommendation from a "hold" to a "sell".

MinMet, *the mining group* that has struck gold in deepest Devon, was 1p dearer at 6¾p by the close after disclosing that the result of the diamond drill assay programme at Crediton Trough was "very encouraging".

Mayflower Corporation *marked time at 176½p* after finally deciding to abandon any attempt at launching a bid *for* **Vickers**, *down* 18p at 235p. It follows a threat from BMW, the German car maker, to scrap its deal to supply engines to Rolls-Royce Motors, a subsidiary of Vickers, if the bid had succeeded.

The cash offer from Bupa, the healthcare group, lifted **Care First** 12p to 153½p. But the nursing homes operator has rejected the terms, valuing the company at £241 million, or 150p a share.

Etam jumped 13½p to 133½p after agreeing to the *terms of the £93 million offer* from Etam Developments, its French namesake which operates *more than* 700 women's clothing and lingerie shops. The terms are worth 135p a share cash.

First-time dealings in **Workplace Technology** got off to an encouraging start after a placing by Dresdner Kleinwort Benson at 175p. Shares in the computer services specialist opened at 187p before closing at their best of the day with a rise of 34½p at 209½p as 2.38 million were traded.

William Sinclair rose 7p to 228½p after encouraging comments about current trading.

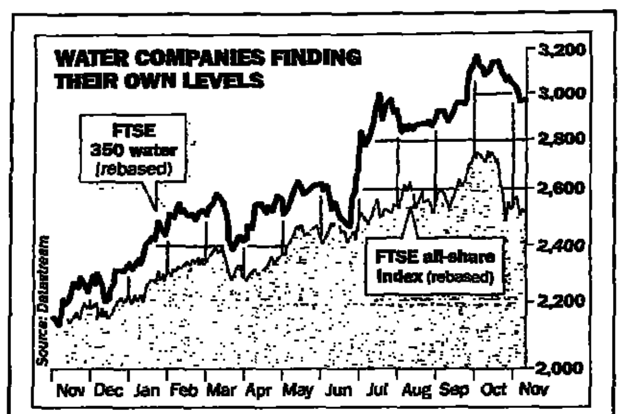
☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Bond prices suffered losses stretching to £1¾ as worries about interest rate rises on both sides of the Atlantic hit sentiment.

Prices edged higher in early trading, reflecting the unemployment, average earnings and Bank of England inflation report, which were all judged positive. But the picture soon soured after US Treasury bonds kicked in with opening falls as the FOMC got down to the job of deciding whether US rates should rise.

In the futures pit, the December series of the long gilt was left nursing a loss of £$^{31}/_{32}$ at £116$^{21}/_{32}$ as a total of 140,000 contracts were completed.

In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 plunged £1¾ to £115$^{9}/_{16}$, while among shorter dated issues Treasury 7 per cent 2002 was £¼ off at £110$^{3}/_{32}$.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Shares suffered early losses as Asia continued to worry investors. There was a limited rebound and by midday the Dow Jones *industrial* average was 21.86 lower at 7,536.87.



THE water sector's ability to outperform on days when the rest of the market is in free-fall has made it something of a haven.

The few spots of blue seen on traders' screens yesterday were recorded by the water companies. Thames Water rose 21½p to 878½p, Anglian 6p to 779p, Seven Trent 16½p to 878p, and Yorkshire 1½p to 451¼p. South West was also 5p firmer at 872½p, ahead of half-year figures out later today.

Robert Miller-Bakewell, of NatWest Markets, says: "The water sector's performance has been rather better than the rest of the market on those down days. It really is a defensive area."

But even if the market turns better the water companies still have their attractions. Thames has not ruled out a share buyback and others may follow suit. But there may be caution ahead of the Green Budget.

"There will be a reasonably good news flow over the next few weeks, which should see the sector continue to outperform the market," adds Mr Miller-Bakewell.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones .... 7536.87 (-21.86)
S&P Composite .... 923.56 (-0.22)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average .... 15434.17 (-433.06)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng .... 9607.91 (-396.22)

Amsterdam:
AEX Index .... 844.52 (-11.22)

Sydney:
AO .... 2510.9 (-13.1)

Frankfurt:
DAX .... 3659.27 (-71.81)

Singapore:
Straits .... 1685.79 (+1.69)

Brussels:
General .... 13056.64 (-11.75)

Paris:
CAC-40 .... 2696.60 (-3.11)

Zurich:
SKA Gen .... 1138.20 (-11.40)

London:
FT 30 .... 3091.1 (-46.0)
FTSE 100 .... 4720.4 (-73.3)
FTSE 250 .... 4581.1 (-54.5)
FTSE 350 .... 2288.0 (-33.9)
FTSE Eurotrack 100 .... 2453.68 (-22.50)
FTSE All-Share .... 2243.58 (-32.16)
FTSE Non Financials .... 2284.99 (-23.85)
FTSE Fixed Interest .... 131.52 (-0.84)
FTSE Govt Secs .... 98.66 (-0.59)
Bargains 50969
SEAQ Volume 719.5m
US$ .... 1.7058 (+0.0016)
German Mark .... 2.9399 (+0.0230)
Exchange Index .... 104.4 (+0.6)
Bank of England official close (4pm)
£:ECU 1.4827
£:SDR 1.2351
RPI .... 159.5 Oct (3.7%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX .... 157.9 Oct (2.8%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Asset Mngmt Zero	101¼	...
BG 'B'	29¼	...
Buckland Inv Wrts	10	...
Buckland Invstmnts	17½	...
Cresco Intl	153½	...
Holmes Place	161½	- 2
Latchways (155)	165	...
Leicester City	82½	...
Marlborough Intl	102½	...
Metalsrussia	86½	...
NSB Retail Sys	165½	- 2
Newsquest (250)	240	- 1½
Nottingham Frst (70)	59½	...
Nycomed Am N/V	2057½	- 72½
SHL Group	275½	- 6
Ultraframe	177½	...
Weather Action	87½	...
Workplace Tech	209½	...
Xaar	107½	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Azlan n/p (37)	16½	+ 3
Country Gdns n/p	5	- 1
Jourdan T n/p (45)	4	...
Meyer Intl n/p (360)	4	- 1½
Recognition Sys n/p	2	- ¼

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
Care First .... 153½p (+12p)
Cable& Wire Coms .... 258p (+12p)
Smiths Inds .... 862p (+32p)
Admiral .... 650p (+15p)
Legal & Gen .... 499p (+11p)
Marks Spencer .... 584p (+11p)
Salgecoach .... 769p (+11p)
Critchley .... 720p (+10p)
Blacks Leis .... 442p (+8½p)

FALLS:
Oxford Inst .... 350p (-51½p)
Network Tech .... 119p (-11p)
Vickers .... 235½p (-18p)
Com Union .... 745p (-45p)
Smith David .... 202½p (-14p)
Sappi .... 357½p (-24p)
BBA .... 375p (-24p)
Williams .... 340p (-21p)
Xenova .... 180p (-10p)
Hambros .... 245p (-12½p)
GRE .... 295p (-15p)

Closing Prices Page 32

TEMPUS

C&W rings the changes

CABLE & WIRELESS was a bit vague about the identity of the businesses to be sold, but, in truth, there are any number of candidates. Dick Brown, chief executive, inherited myriad small investments in telecoms businesses from his predecessor. These only reinforced the market's perception that C&W is an investment trust rather than an operating business, condemning the shares to trade at a discount to a perceived break-up value.

Happily, the proposed £1 billion sell-off will have three useful consequences that should narrow the share price discount. Selling off its interest in just two businesses, such as its stakes in Bouygues Telecom and the South African Mobile Telephony Network, would yield almost half the mooted billion, thus lending credibility to break-up valuations of C&W ranging from 630p to 650p. Secondly, the removal of a slug of the minority interests should turn C&W into something more akin to an operating company with a visible strategy. And finally, the disposals will reduce losses. C&W's associates include many start-up telephony projects that inevitably lose money for three to four years. Disposals could eliminate a deficit of about £60 million from the revenue account.

C&W's chief executive is naturally resistant to talk of mergers with BT and the like. The notion that C&W is just another turkey for Christmas is not flattering. But the reality is that most of the regional Bell companies in America, lacking an overseas presence, would see C&W as an attractive asset, offering instant access to international traffic and a valuable entré into China. The shares should climb further.

Waddington

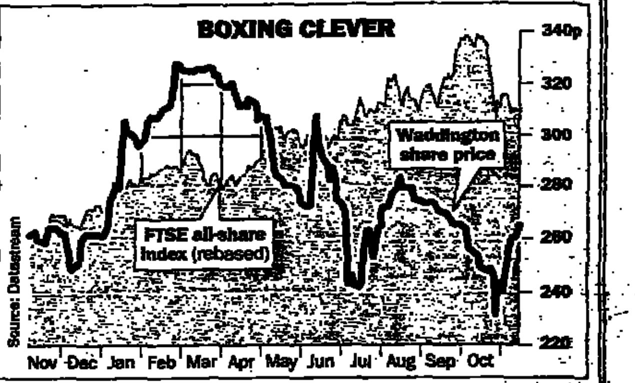
WADDINGTON has been punished enough. Piggybacking on a boom in direct *mail from banks and former* building societies, it is delivering solid profits growth *and investing heavily. Yet its* shares still wallow at only 10.7 times prospective *earnings*.

Why should this be? Because Waddington is a paper and packaging company — a sector the City dislikes. It is also small, which the City likes even less, and it has yet to be forgiven for a profit collapse three years ago.

Yet it still delivers 10 per cent underlying earnings growth from solid businesses, the best being its UK printing operations where it enjoys a commanding share of a growing market. In addition, its US medicine bottle division is buoyed by the American passion for taking vitamin pills, which sell like Smarties in the good times.

Only the European carton business lags, pressured by a scrum of desperate printers *that undercut each other in a* mad scramble for cereal box contracts. Everyone is suffering and the weak are going under, leaving the prospect of a market dominated by *smaller but* more powerful players.

Waddington is taking the *initiative, investing £10 million* in new plant, hoping to profit in the upturn, but its other divisions are delivering 16 per cent earnings growth and, at 267½p, the shares look cheap.



Vanguard

IN THIS share market, a biotech company must be either mad or desperate to seek to raise money. But Vanguard Medica, which wants another £48 million, boasts some of the best brains in the pharmaceutical industry. One must therefore conclude that its finances and short-term prospects are less rosy than they appear.

With £35 million in the bank, the company has no immediate need for cash. But is does need to find new compounds. A "virtual" pharmaceutical company, lacking its own early stage research, it depends on picking up drug projects that fall off the conveyor belts of the big pharma companies. This has proved harder than an*ticipated for Vanguard which* has added only one new project to its pipeline since *flotation, 18 months ago.*

But the industry giants, keen to squeeze as much *value as possible from their* research spending, may be increasingly reluctant to pass on minor gems to Vanguard. Moreover, its most developed drug, a migraine treatment, is to be sold by SmithKline Beecham — the same company that discovered the compound. *Just* how much value can Vanguard contribute as piggy-in-the-middle? With the backing of its famous names, Vanguard had an easy story to float. But investors should think again before backing this share issue.

Hambros

HAMBROS has become the *incredible shrinking bank* and there must be some danger that it will disappear altogether *if action is not taken* soon. The banking operation managed to raise its pre-tax *profit by £3 million during the year,* largely because of reduced bad debts but the *real story was told by the op*erating line where profits halved to £5 million.

How can almost £300 million in assets produce a return of just £5 million? Could the sheer size of its board, packed with illustrious City names, be too much for such a small bank to support? The falling share price of Hambros is putting an ever smaller value on the bank. After deducting the value of the quoted stakes in Hambro Countrywide and Hambro Insurance and the unquoted investments, the bank is worth about £180 million.

Given the level of profits, even that figure looks optimistic. *Curiously, the bank is* attracting unwanted attention from a number of investors who *must be expecting* more than a special dividend of shares in Countrywide and Hambro Insurance. As the silence from the Hambro boardroom grows ever more deafening, *the temptation to sell rises* but, in merchant banking, fools and their money are easi*ly parted. Somebody might* just want this bank. Hang on.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

LONGS (over 15 years)

UNDATED

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:

1997 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

LIFFE OPTIONS

[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt	Dec 97	117-24	118-02	116-19	116-21	141597
Previous open interest 189171	Mar 98	118-02	118-13	117-30	117-07	1304
German Govt Bond (Bund)	Dec 97	102.51	102.79	102.16	102.20	163022
Previous open interest 263732	Mar 98	102.05	102.05	101.70	101.52	893
German Govt Bond (Bobl)	Dec 97	103.45	103.54	103.17	103.18	9724
Previous open interest 22451	Mar 98	102.84	102.84	102.77	102.50	286
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)	Dec 97	111.70	111.72	111.17	111.26	42922
Previous open interest 115203	Mar 98	111.67	111.70	111.66	111.49	656
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Dec 97	129.70	129.75	129.51	129.51	6014
	Mar 98	128.90	128.93	128.76	128.75	2235
Three Mth Sterling	Dec 97	92.30	92.34	92.25	92.31	38203
	Mar 98	92.15	92.24	92.12	92.19	51053
Previous open interest 723970	Jun 98	92.13	92.22	92.09	92.16	44570
Three Mth Euromark	Dec 97	96.18	96.19	96.12	96.12	77953
Previous open interest 1796519	*Mar 98*	*95.91*	*95.94*	*95.87*	*95.87*	*43008*
Three Mth Eurolira	Dec 97	93.58	93.58	93.53	93.54	14040
Previous open interest 508273	Mar 98	94.30	94.31	94.23	94.25	9718
Three Mth Euroswiss	Dec 97	97.89	97.93	97.86	97.89	4925
Previous open interest 190724	Mar 98	97.69	97.73	97.68	97.70	6508
Three Mth ECU	Dec 97	95.29	95.30	95.28	95.28	649
Previous open interest 36622	Mar 98	95.21	95.24	95.21	95.22	342
FTSE 100	Dec 97	4757.0	4769.0	4700.0	4751.0	14573
Previous open interest 73537	Mar 98	4796.0	4796.0	4780.0	4794.0	103

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 7¼ Finance Hse 7¾
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 7¼ Low 6½ Week fixed: 7¼
Treasury Bills (Dis):Buy: 2 mth [illegible]; 3 mth [illegible]. Sell: 2 mth [illegible]; 3 mth: [illegible].

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Overnight: open [illegible], close [illegible].

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Deps:	[illegible]	n/a	7½	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	5.65	n/a	5.80	5.82	5.99
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Deutschemark:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	4-3
French Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Swiss Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	2¼-2	[illegible]	[illegible]
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $309.30-309.70 Close: $308.30-308.70 High: $310.00-310.40
Low: $308.10-308.60 AM: $310.10 PM: $308.15

Krugerrand: $308.00-310.00 (£180.75-182.75)

Platinum: $393.00 (£229.80) Silver: $4.96 (£2.915) Palladium: $212.00 (£124.00)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Nov 12	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.2979-3.3157	3.3127-3.3157	1¼-1pr	3½-3¼pr
Brussels	60.320-60.683	60.607-60.683	22-17pr	61-54pr
Copenhagen	11.133-11.195	11.185-11.195	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dublin	1.1197-1.1271	1.1236-1.1271	13-7pr	43-36pr
Frankfurt	2.9254-2.9422	2.9399-2.9422	[illegible]	[illegible]
Lisbon	298.49-300.22	299.930-300.22	[illegible]	[illegible]
Madrid	247.05-248.41	248.17-248.41	52-41pr	164-145pr
Milan	*2864.6-2880.0*	*2876.8-2880.0*	22-6pr	78-55pr
Montreal	2.4035-2.4109	2.4035-2.4053	0.78-0.73pr	1.49-1.40pr
New York	1.7058-1.7106	1.7058-1.7065	0.263-0.242pr	0.788-0.757pr
Oslo	11.966-12.0208	12.011-12.020	[illegible]	[illegible]
Paris	9.8000-9.8528	9.8471-9.8528	[illegible]	[illegible]
Stockholm	12.776-12.835	12.816-12.830	[illegible]	[illegible]
Tokyo	214.64-215.35	214.64-214.89	[illegible]	[illegible]
Vienna	20.590-20.709	20.691-20.709	[illegible]	[illegible]
Zurich	2.3765-2.3906	2.3881-2.3906	[illegible]	[illegible]

Source: Extel   *Premium - pr. Discount - ds.*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.4398-1.4409
Austria	12.09-12.10
Belgium (Com)	35.44-35.45
Canada	1.4084-1.4089
Denmark	6.5402-6.5422
France	5.7583-5.7592
Germany	1.7193-1.7198
Hong Kong	7.7310-7.7320
Ireland	1.5157-1.5207
Italy	1683.45-1683.95
Japan	125.91-125.96
Malaysia	3.2850-3.2950
Netherlands	1.9380-1.9390
Norway	7.0320-7.0380
Portugal	175.58-175.68
Singapore	1.5770-1.5790
Spain	145.30-145.38
Sweden	7.4961-7.5035
Switzerland	1.3990-1.4000

OTHER STERLING

*Argentina peso**	*1.7053-1.7081*
Australia dollar	2.4562-2.4597
Bahrain dinar	0.6385-0.6525
Brazil real*	1.8889-1.8935
China yuan	14.039-14.339
Cyprus pound	0.8540-0.8730
Finland markka	8.7500-8.8910
Greece drachma	454.0-464.5
Hong Kong dollar	13.1827-13.1939
India rupee	62.25-63.55
Indonesia rupiah	n/a
Kuwait dinar KD	0.5135-0.5245
Malaysia ringgit	5.6065-5.6269
New Zealand dollar	2.7300-2.7337
Pakistan rupee	73.85 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	6.1675-6.3025
Singapore dollar	2.6866-2.6916
S Africa rand (com)	8.1820-8.3510
U A E dirham	6.2225-6.3585

*Barclays Treasury * Lloyds Bank*

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	975	Legal & Gn	1,200
ASDA Gp	12,300	Lloyds TSB	8,800
Abbey Ntl	5,700	LucasVarity	9,300
Allnce & Leic	737	*Marks Spr*	7,200
Allied Dom	3,400	NatWst Bk	3,000
AB Foods	477	Nat Grid	4,300
BAA	2,800	Nat Power	2,800
BAT Inds	3,400	Next	2,800
BG	6,500	Norwich Un	5,800
BOC	506	Orange	1,100
BP	8,400	P & O	2,000
BSkyB	4,100	Pearson	1,000
BTR	8,600	PowerGen	1,400
BT	14,500	Prudential	4,100
Bk of Scot	2,600	RMC	376
Barclays	3,100	Railtrack	639
Bass	2,000	Rank Group	1,700
Billiton	3,500	Reckitt Col	1,200
Blue Circle	1,400	Reed Intl	3,500
Boots	2,000	Rentokil	3,400
BAe	1,800	Reuters	3,000
BA	3,500	Rio Tinto	2,300
British Land	846	*Rolls Royce*	3,500
Brit Steel	4,100	Royal & Sun	4,900
Cable Wire	8,400	Royal Bk Sct	660
Cadbury	3,200	Safeway	2,800
Carlton Cms	1,700	Sainsbury	4,900
Centrica	3,800	Schroders	126
Cm Union	3,000	Scot & New	1,100
Dixons	911	Scot Power	1,200
EMI	2,000	Svrn Trent	1,900
Energy Gp	854	*Shell Trans*	16,200
Enterpr Oil	1,900	Siebe	3,800
GKN	489	SmKl Bch	9,100
GRE	3,000	Smiths Inds	296
GUS	976	*Std Chartd*	4,400
Gen Acc	624	Sun Life	1,400
Gen Elec	12,500	TI Gp	2,000
Glaxo Well	5,300	Tesco	7,700
Granada	2,400	Thames W	1,000
Grand Met	5,600	Tomkins	1,200
Guinness	2,200	Unilever	10,400
HSBC	3,500	Utd Utilities	1,800
Halifax	2,500	Utd News	1,000
Hays	650	*Vodafone*	4,500
ICI	2,000	Whitbread	469
Kingfisher	1,000	Williams	1,900
LASMO	3,100	Wolseley	256
Ladbroke	3,600	Woolwich	2,200
Land Secs	859	Zeneca	1,600

WALL STREET

	Nov 12 midday	Nov 11 close
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Bupa expansion may prove unhealthy

The acquisition of Care First might seem a bargain but could prove a worthless deal, says **Marianne Curphey**

Remember the Bupa advertising campaign? "You're amazing. We want you to stay that way." This is not an epithet that could be applied to the management of Care First, the nursing home provider for which Bupa has launched a £241 million bid.

"The management have no credibility and the business is a complete mess," one industry source commented yesterday. "The shareholders must be delighted that Bupa has come to the rescue."

Why, though, would Bupa wish to pay a premium for a portfolio of drab, unappealing nursing homes with an average 150 beds and no en suite facilities?

By contrast, rival providers are offering modern, comfortable 50-bed homes with their own bathrooms as standard and Care First's cannot compete. Despite excitement in the 1980s over huge potential yields on private nursing homes, the industry is currently suffering from overcapacity and a squeeze on local authority fund. Currently, there are much higher margins to be gained from homecare and private medical insurance business.

The strategy behind Bupa's bid is its wish to diversify. Bupa has seen its share of the private medical insurance eroded from a peak of nearly 60 per cent in the UK to just under 45 per cent over the past decade.

Bupa and other providers are also aware that a large proportion of the population believe Labour will be in office for ten years and will save the National Health Service during that time. Therefore, the logic goes, private medical insurance is an unnecessary luxury. Currently 15 per cent of the population has some form of medical insurance policy, but the number sold has been flat over the past few years and the removal of tax relief on medical insurance policies for the over-60s in the last Budget dealt the industry another blow.

Healthcare analysts believe Bupa's initial proposal of a premium of around 15p a share was pitched in order to avoid a hostile takeover battle, since there are likely to be a few other bidders for the business. After Care First's rejection of the bid yesterday, Bupa is likely to increase the offer to an additional 5p per share but no higher. Unlike a publicly quoted corporation, Bupa's status as a private company means it needs to guard its reputation and image jealously. Any bad publicity resulting from an aggressive takeover battle might backfire on the provider which has spent tens of millions of pounds on advertising.

Besides, Bupa has £600 million of spare cash in its reserves and does not have the same pressure as a listed company would have to come up with swift returns for institutional shareholders.

Bupa's board has the freedom to make deals such as the proposed Care First bid and, although it has a panel of governors and trustees to whom it must report, they are unlikely to veto the move.

Bupa is probably the only provider in the market for whom this deal may, in time, work out. Paul Saper, a healthcare analyst with Laing & Buisson, said: "Bupa has now built up a strong reputation in the healthcare field. It is so well known among the population that customers are likely to opt for a Bupa nursing home on the strength of that image alone. This is a chance for Bupa to exploit the strength of its corporate image which it has spent years building up."

The strategy will take time to bear fruit and is not without its risks. There are plenty of small nursing home providers who fell by the wayside after the 1980s revolution in care for the elderly failed to take off.

On paper the figures look right: by 2025 the number of people in the UK who are over 85 — the greatest users of long-term care — will have almost doubled to 1.5 million. However, since the early 1990s when local authorities were given control of nursing home funding, cash for admissions has dried up and the number of occupied nursing home beds has fallen. With high fixed costs, the operators' profits came under pressure and share prices fell.

This is one of the reasons that Goldsborough was gradually reducing its dependence on nursing homes before Bupa launched a bid for it earlier this year.

As Bupa looks for diversification abroad it is also attempting to keep a tight rein on costs at home.

It is in the process of trying to introduce a contract with hospital consultants to reduce expenses by setting limits for the fees surgeons can charge for operations. The British Medical Association has objected to the scheme which some consultants have described as blackmail. Bupa knows, however, that more policyholders are claiming on their insurance and premiums are rising. Only time will tell whether diversifying into nursing homes when they are out of favour with the market will leave Bupa sitting on a bargain or saddled with a worthless investment.

Europe should learn from US stance on tackling pollution

AMERICAN AGENDA

BRONWEN MADDOX

US viewpoint: President Clinton wants a permit system through which countries can buy the right to stay dirty

There is a case for doing nothing about global warming. Scientists increasingly agree that man-made pollution will cause the world to heat up, but they still have little idea of the effects. The US Vice-President's apocalyptic vision that we will all be living in a waterworld is far from proven. Better to wait until we see the harmful effects, and build walls around Bangladesh if necessary, than to risk reining in current economic growth, reducing the wealth available to make that eventual adjustment.

That is a respectable view, if unfashionable. It is one I share. The UK, in particular, should consider it seriously as the British Isles may even benefit from the predicted changes. Sir Robert May, the UK Government's chief scientific adviser, himself a supporter of action to combat global warming, suggests that "by the year 2020, climate change in Britain is likely to correspond roughly to a northward shift in climate characteristics of some 100 to 200 kilometres. Many might think that no bad thing.

This is not, though, a case much aired at the weekend in Tokyo, when two dozen countries tried to draft a convention for 160-odd countries to sign at next month's meeting in Kyoto.

In those negotiations, the Clinton Administration has been much pilloried by Europeans for taking a supposedly soft stance. But if countries are to "do something" about global warming, the US's recommended approach is the only sensible one. The moral note adopted by the Europeans in chastising the US, and by the British Government in particular, is both unjustified and unhelpful. From December 1 to 10 in Kyoto, signatories to a 1992 UN climate change convention will try to hammer out binding targets for developed nations to cut emissions of "greenhouse gases", mainly carbon dioxide, which are believed to cause global warming. The meeting has attracted astonishing professions of support from the main industrialised countries, compared with their lukewarm attitudes a year ago. In Tokyo, politicians declared firmly that the gulfs between their positions could be bridged.

It is hard, though, to see the source of this optimism; with Kyoto just three weeks away, the gulfs remain. The US wants developed countries to return their emissions to 1990 levels between 2008 and 2012. Japan wants a 5 per cent reduction from 1990 levels within the same time frame. Most ambitious, the European Union wants a 15 per cent reduction by 2010. The terms on which developing countries might be brought into the convention are also disputed.

The Senate, which must ratify US participation, insists developing countries commit to targets by 2010. The US Administration also wants a global system of "tradeable permits", through which countries can buy the right to stay dirty from cleaner nations.

Negotiations were bound to be tense. A good case can be made for each of the following, conflicting views of how the cost should be shared: the greatest burden should fall on those that contributed most past pollution; on those that will contribute most in the future; on those that will suffer least from the effects (or even benefit); or on those that use energy least efficiently.

But the European target is peculiarly inflammatory. It starts from none of these principles, nor from any appeal to equity; it simply proposes an arbitrarily chosen reduction from an arbitrarily chosen starting point of 1990. Underpinning the EU's approach, and its unease about the US's suggestion of a global market in pollution permits, is a curious moral tone. Peter Jorgensen, European Commission spokesman, pronounced the US's recommendations as "simply not good enough", saying that the US did not "face up to its global responsibilities".

Michael Meacher, the UK Environment Minister, in Washington before the Tokyo meeting, chastised the Americans for "not showing leadership, not being prepared to make as much effort as everyone else".

That line of criticism misses the point. What matters is the overall reduction in global emissions, not the individual effort. It is "a better use of money", as one US official put it, for the US to pay dirty countries to adopt cleaner technology than for it to improve its already relatively high standard of energy efficiency. It does not matter that the "effort" does not come within America's 50 states.

What is more, there is something of humbug in the European position. It has seen Europe-wide emissions restrained since 1990 by the collapse of East German heavy industry and by recession. It is also demanding that the EU be treated as one unit, within which the emissions of Spain and Portugal can continue to rise.

In the UK's case, the moral tone in the Government's statements veers towards the comic, given the pronouncements of Labour in opposition. A current article by Mr Meacher contains the following passage: "CO_2 emissions in the UK have fallen since 1990, thanks to the liberalisation of electricity combined with various government programmes. Restructuring our electricity system revealed just how inefficient it was. Once competition was introduced, new companies came in and built highly efficient gas-fired plants." It is scarcely credible that a Labour minister, straight-faced, can take credit for policies of the previous government once so bitterly contested: the deregulation of electricity, the "dash for gas" by the liberalised generators and, incidentally, the closure of the UK coal industry. He now instructs the US to follow the UK's lead in deregulation, criticising the US coal industry for "vehemently opposing" it.

Drollness aside, he is right in that the changes have equipped Britain with cheaper and, incidentally, cleaner energy. He could go further, and re-examine Labour's persisting hostility to nuclear power, which at present provides a third of Britain's electricity and half of Scotland's. By 2015, almost all of that nuclear power will be phased out. The targets the UK Government is now so confident of meeting may look rather more elusive.

In spite of Mr Meacher's ambivalence about the sale of nuclear power to developing countries, he might also take the chance to ask why the UK nuclear industry, subsidised for so long on the ground that it would one day produce valuable exports, is lagging the Americans, Canadians and French in selling to China and India.

Rather than berating the US for lack of "effort", Britain and other European countries should remember the lesson closest to home, in Eastern Europe: that a few simple steps to clean up dirty countries offers large, quick, relatively cheap cuts in pollution. They should also learn the lesson of last month's sale of US nuclear reactors to China: that improving the energy efficiency of developing countries offers huge trading opportunities.

If they are serious about adopting workable targets, the US's recommendation of a global market in pollution permits is the sensible course. Or they could, of course, choose to do nothing.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Bank shows backbone with rate rise

From Mr Samuel Jacob

Sir, the Bank of England's *Monetary Policy Committee* has finally developed some backbone. Its decision to lift interest rates by 25 basis points, wrong footing the markets in the process, is the first piece of proactive monetary policy since independence was granted. Hitherto, we have seen the Bank adopting a passive reactionary stance, increasing interest rates as and when the markets expected such a move in a classic case of the tail wagging the dog.

Economic literature, however, shows us that the most effective changes in monetary policy are those unanticipated by the market.

The surprise nature of the move bears a striking resemblance to the 30 basis point rise in German rates implemented last month by the *Bundesbank* — an exemplification of sound anti-inflationary independent central bank policy.

Finally we have a monetary policy based on the underlying economic fundamentals rather than whimsical political considerations or market expectations. The short-term pain of some economic agents, eg, exporters and mortgage payers, must be traded off against the longer-term fruits of economic stability. Let the dog wag its tail and, if it must, let it bite too.

Yours faithfully,
Samuel Jacob,
Economist,
UnionCal
Cornhill, EC3.
<uca02@centrenet.co.uk.

Art subsidies and higher spending tourists

From Mr Richard Harden

Sir, Roger Bootle (November 10) dismisses as "ridiculously weak" the argument that — for the sake of the tourist industry — subsidies are necessary to bolster London as a leading arts centre.

Mr Bootle bases this on the assertion that most tourists are as interested in *Phantom of the Opera* as in the Royal Opera House.

The key fact he completely overlooks, however, is that, economically speaking, the UK is already very much in need of a "better class" of visitor — though tourist numbers continue to escalate, the UK is failing, according to a recent report, to increase average "spend" per visitor in the same way as, say, France. So London, in particular, gets maximum congestion for minimum economic benefit.

Mr Bootle's coup de grace — he seems to think — is to wonder whether we should start subsidising hotels on the same principle as the arts.

What same principle? Without subsidies, there will still be hotels. But without subsidies it is entirely possible that there would be no grand opera in London at all.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD HARDEN,
Harden's Guides,
29 Villiers Street,
WC2.

Thumbs down

From Mr David C. Askren

Sir, I am contacting you in response to your Business article "BA's New Colours Given Thumbs Up Overseas". While Mr Ayling may think he has overseas support for his "new look", he does not in the US. Most people in the airline industry here see the new livery as a huge blunder. Brand identity is very important in this business. Mr Ayling would be better off spending the £60 million on service improvements.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID C. ASKREN,
2777 Woodland Pk Dr, No 810,
Houston, Texas, USA.

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709056

Lloyd's loss

THE anonymous writer of a poison pen letter being peddled around about Charles Fry, chief executive of Johnson Fry, had better check his or her facts. Fry is understandably denying the allegation that he "allowed" his wife Jane to be made bankrupt, so evading any moral obligations to repay her losses at Lloyd's for her. The facts are thus. Fry became a name in 1983 and his wife joined five years later. "In keeping with many other people I gave my wife £100,000 and made her a name at Lloyd's. Within three years she had lost £600,000," says Fry. His wife then went to the hardship committee at Lloyd's. This allowed her debts to be forgiven after a few years.

"I am a member. I did equally as badly as she did. I have paid all my losses. I resigned at the beginning of this year." There was no obligation under such circumstances to stand behind his wife's debts, says Fry, who professes little concern about such allegations being circulated about his private life.

"You realise if you'd bought it later, I could tell everybody it was a French outfit"

● *I have some bad news for investors in London & Continental Railways, the part-Virgin consortium that is building a line out of London towards the Channel Tunnel. Eurotunnel was asked yesterday if it was lending any assistance to the venture. This and that, said John Noulton, director of public affairs. Including help with drawing up the financing plan. With friends like these . . .*

Bowing out

BUMPED into Peter Hilliar, the genial former Barclays de Zoete Wedd leisure analyst, at the High Court. He is one of the gaggle of City scribblers who, as I reported, have been drafted in to help Queens Moat Houses to fight its defence against the action for unfair dismissal by John Bairstow and other former directors. BZW was Queens Moat's joint broker. Peter tells me this will be his last week in the City. Currently working for Hudson Sandler, the public relations firm, he is retiring at the age of 56. Best wishes for the future, Peter, and I seem to remember I owe you lunch.

Clear vision

I HEAR that relations between the Mirror Group, which inhabits the Tower at Canary Wharf, and Citibank may not be that sparkling once the American bank finally arrives at the turn of the century. Some Mirror employees are unhappy that the new Citibank Tower, now being built, is starting to cut off their splendid views. The news should amuse those local inhabitants who blame the Tower for blocking their television reception. Happily, I am told, the office of David Montgomery, chief executive, is not affected. So Monty's towering vision remains intact.

MUCH speculation in the press of late, they tell me, on just who will be taking over from Rupert Murdoch as chairman and chief executive of The News Corporation. He was himself tackled yesterday by reporters on the very subject. An announcement would definitely be made, he said. "Two months after I'm dead."

Closed door

DISHONEST salesmen flogging gas on the doostep have been a nuisance for some time. But one doorstepper who demanded cash just to put householders in touch with one of British Gas's rivals more than met his match. The doorstep in question was that of Martin O'Neill, chairman of the Trade and Industry Select Committee — and currently overseeing an investigation into the competitive gas market.

Petty cash

CHRIS WRIGHT, chairman of Chrysalis Group, is accustomed to dropping in unannounced at the company's radio station, Heart 106.2. When he did so yesterday the station had a temporary accounting difficulty. Two listeners had won £1,000 in a competition, but there was no one there to write the cheques. Wright pulled out his wallet and settled up in cash. Mind you, if I know Chris this probably left him with at least another ten grand in petty cash.

MARTIN WALLER

Chris Wright settled up with two Heart 106.2 competition winners

هكذا من الاصل

ACCOUNTANCY

Better rules for smaller firms

Isobel Sharp says the new ruling is a compromise but represents a big change in financial reporting

If you always do what you've always done, you'll always get what you always got. With this adage in mind, will accountants dare to be different and take on board last week's new Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (or FRSSE for short)?

There are good reasons for doing so. For example, the FRSSE is a mere 72 pages of the essential accountant's gobbledegook. If that seems excessive, then the alternative should be considered. That is continuing direct compliance with the 700 pages of the other 26 financial reporting standards from the Accounting Standards Board and 14 abstracts from the Urgent Issues Task Force.

But wouldn't seven pages be better? I think so. But apart from reducing the type size to the illegibly small, it cannot be done, at least for now. However, there is hope for the future if we keep on the case.

The FRSSE represents the end of the beginning and a start of a new chapter in financial reporting. Since accounting standards were first issued in the UK in 1971, the cry has been that these standards are unnecessary or unsuitable for smaller companies. Attempts to provide exemptions, particularly in the Eighties, were unsuccessful. The standards continued to apply to all generally, although piecemeal reliefs were given. Overall, the position remained unsatisfactory.

The financial reporting standards issued in the Nineties are clearly distinguishable by their length and complexity from those issued in the preceding two decades. This is not a criticism. The new standards are designed to meet the needs of users and to cater for the complex business arrangements met in practice.

While larger companies have also been complaining from time to time of standards overload, the position for smaller firms was becoming insupportable, if not downright silly. Change was needed. Most agreed with that. But what the change should be generated widely divergent views. Complete exemption was not an option that would command support or respect. Whether accountants, no longer armed with accounting standards to follow, would create anarchy in small companies' accounts is probably unlikely. But there would be uncertainty and confusion among users, such as the banks and the tax authorities, accustomed to receiving accounts produced against a known template.

Isobel Sharp would prefer a document of seven pages, not 72

So the compromise was the FRSSE. The next task is to ensure that things improve. That needs flair, imagination and adaptability, not only from accountants, but also from the supreme UK regulator, the Government. That is why the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland is asking this week for a separate Companies Act for smaller companies. In its report *Better Law, Better Business*, the institute wants company law segmented by company size. In this way, there would be specific focus in law on the regulation of small companies. Another step that could be achieved readily would be an increase in the turnover threshold for qualification as a small company from £2.8 million to £4.2 million. That would allow a further 12,000 companies to benefit from the present small company exemptions in company law and to be able to adopt the FRSSE.

Although these steps are relatively easy, the next stage, proposed by the institute, of modernising, simplifying and improving the law for smaller companies would not be easy. Some desired elements might be possible only if the European law is changed. This takes time and patience. However, the end product — law fit for the new millennium and sized to meet the needs of smaller firms, is worth the struggle.

Views will be divided. This was evident in the process of producing the FRSSE. The best summary was in a piece of Irish research. Asked whether people have concerns about a possible relaxation of standards for small companies, the helpful response was: "Some do and some do not. Some have no opinion one way or the other."

Perhaps the only measure of progress will be change itself, whether that is viewed as good, bad or indifferent.

The author is a partner in Arthur Andersen's Professional Standards Group and a member of the ASB's committee on accounting for smaller entities and the ICAS working party responsible for the Better Law, Better Business report.

It all ends in tears for man with Achilles' ear

THE annual London dinner of the Scots ICA, held on the first Monday of November every year at the Savoy, is a great occasion. It is good-humoured. It has to be. What other accounting institute could get away with describing England and Wales as an "area". But an area dinner it is.

This year it was even more eventful than usual. But it was not the Scots who were creating the stir. It was the English. The English ICA was known to be in the throes of agreeing a leaving package for Andrew Colquhoun, its chief executive, and severing its connections. Yet the rumour was that he was at the dinner and ready to take his place on the top table. And so he did, beaming in all directions. It was a curious decision. But a brave one.

The other rumour running around the dinner was that Colquhoun intended, two days later, to take his place at the monthly council meeting that would decide his fate. It came as no surprise, when the Wednesday came, to discover that he had "resigned" the previous day.

Colquhoun had been with the institute since 1984. He joined it from Shandwick Consultants, after a period in the Foreign Service, to be head of public relations. Colquhoun is a startlingly bright man — first-class honours, doctorate, and an MBA taken in spare time and achieved with distinction — but he had one real failing. If someone can have an Achilles' heel in their ear, it was he. He had difficulty listening. And he was not a chartered accountant.

This should not matter. Administration is administration. His predecessor, when he took over in 1990, had been a civil servant. But the institute has never known exactly what it wanted of its secretary and chief executive. And gradually the institute bureaucracy multiplied. It was the spirit of the times. Governance was the watchword and governance meant setting up committees, directorates and working parties, many of them simply keeping an eye on each other. Steadily, initiative ebbed away. People became so used to getting flak for any decisive act that, with their energy drained away by constant second-guessing, they either left or took simply to getting by.

It was always going to end in tears. And by last week the final act tok place. In a sepulchral atmosphere in the council chamber, Chris Laine, the usually genial president, read out the statement that: "Andrew Colquhoun, secretary and chief executive of the institute, is to leave his current position as part of a package of management changes planned by the council of the institute."

And that was it. It had been startlingly badly handled. For some weeks, anyone trying to get a hold of Colquhoun for a chat had been told he was ill. After several messages like this, people become concerned. But as far as the institute staff were concerned, he was either ill or still in harness.

Senior members of staff receive a memo each week detailing the activities of the institute's executive members. Three weeks ago it told them Colquhoun was in New York on official business. Other members of the profession at the same conference sought for him in vain. Then two weeks ago came the final chaos. In London, the staff memo said that he was in Paris at the World Accounting Congress. In Paris, where the three chartered institutes hosted a reception, he was said to be either "ill" or simply "in London".

[redacted]

ROBERT BRUCE

When it became apparent that the institute's officeholders had been negotiating terms with him since early October, the institute still didn't talk to its staff. When the truth appeared in the newspapers, the institute then, and only then, briefed its press office staff. They were as astounded as many of the ordinary staff of the institute.

Now the institute is trying to find a replacement. The word is that a radical change is under consideration. This does not mean that the Gerrard report into the institute's organisation, which suggested a director-general earlier in the year, is going to be followed. This was partly Colquhoun's undoing. He felt his position to be under pressure, as long as a director-general was the fashionable solution. As enthusiasm for it ebbed, he felt safer. The letter he received from the president at the beginning of last month was "a surprise". Laine and his successors, Chris Swinson of BDO Stoy Hayward and Dame Sheila Masters, want something more radical. Masters, in particular, has always argued for a ruthless approach to the institute's staff.

In particular, they want someone who will be, as well as a good people manager and a good communicator, someone who can recognise commercial ideas and drive them forward. They are going to have to be very careful. Disasters lurk within such a job specification.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

An unwieldy head count

AS PART of the programme of "getting closer together", senior staff at Price Waterhouse and Coopers & Lybrand are meeting to ensure a smooth transition towards merger. The meetings are meant to identify issues that should be sorted out. One of these would appear to be the relative efficiency or bureaucracy of each of the firms. One meeting was of department heads from one particular discipline. Twenty-two people turned up — two from Price Waterhouse, 20 from Coopers. "How many people do you think it takes for them to change a lightbulb?" was muttered under the Price Waterhouse breath.

Puzzling attire

IAN BRINDLE, currently UK senior partner of Price Waterhouse but the man who will rejoice in the intergalactic title of Global Risk Management Leader should the merger go through, is trying to enact some culture change of his own. Always fond of bright ties, he has taken to wearing one depicting brightly coloured jigsaw puzzle pieces. By December, should partners vote the merger through, he will doubtless reveal what the completed puzzle means.

Poor timing

MORALE is always low when a chief executive is removed. And so it was at the English ICA when Andrew Colquhoun resigned last week. What is required is an upbeat message to staff to try to raise morale again. The head of administration, Paul Glicker, does not appear to have done his cause much good. He chose the same time to announce to several staff that, because the grading system had inexplicably got out of kilter, they could all forget about pay increases this year.

Debate that grates

THE General Practitioner Board of the English ICA is keen on the issue of whether audits should be abolished for small companies. For one, abolition might wipe out the need for small practitioners. So they have organised a debate on December 10, with the motion that small firms needn't have an audit. Unfortunately such a line is not official policy. The board has panicked and what was to have been an open debate will be behind closed doors.

ROBERT BRUCE

Court of Appeal

Law Report November 13 1997

House of Lords

Court cannot review commissioner

Regina v Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, Ex parte Al Fayed

Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Millett and Lord Justice Mummery

[Judgment October 15]

The Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards performed a function which was concerned with activities within Parliament and the responsibility for supervising him was placed on a special standing committee of the House of Commons. It was therefore inappropriate for the court to use supervisory powers over the commissioner.

The Court of Appeal so held when refusing a renewed application by Mr Mohammed Al Fayed and upholding a decision by Mr Justice Sedley on April 24 not to grant Mr Al Fayed's application for leave to seek judicial review of a report dated March 5, 1997 by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards in which he rejected a complaint made by Mr Al Fayed that Mr Michael Howard, then a minister of the Crown as well as a member of Parliament, had received a corrupt payment. The report concluded that Mr Howard had no case to answer.

Mr David Pannick, QC and Mr Michael Fordham for Mr Al Fayed; Mr Stephen Richards for the commissioner.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that the issue was whether the supervisory jurisdiction of the court applied where the impugned decision was not by the House of Commons itself, or by one of its committees, but by an independent person who had been appointed by Parliament to exercise an investigative function.

The question raised was of the relationship between the courts and Parliament. That was a relationship which was central to the constitutional arrangements of the country.

It was clearly established that the courts exercised a self-denying ordinance in relation to interfering with the proceedings of Parliament.

That approach was supported by article 9 of the Bill of Rights 1689 which provided that "the freedome of speech and debates or proceedings in Parlyament ought not to be impeached or questioned in any court or place out of Parlyament".

The source which resulted in the establishment of the office of Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards was *Standards in Public Life* (Cm 2850-I++), informally called the *Nolan Report*.

That report resulted in the setting up of a standing committee with responsibilities in relation to the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards. Lord Nolan recommended, inter alia, that the House should appoint a person of independent standing, who should have a degree of tenure and not be a career member of the House of Commons staff, as Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards; that the commissioner should have independent discretion to decide whether or not a complaint merited investigation or to initiate an investigation; and that he should be able to send for persons, papers and records, and therefore needed to be supported by the authority of a select committee with the necessary powers.

There was in the *Nolan Report* itself an analogy drawn between the position of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards and another Parliamentary Commissioner, that for administration who was commonly referred to as the Ombudsman.

The argument on behalf of Mr Al Fayed relied strongly on the similarities between the position of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards and of the Ombudsman, and on the decision of the Divisional Court in *R v Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration, Ex parte Dyer* ([1994] 1 WLR 621), where it was held that there was nothing in the Ombudsman's role or the statutory framework within which he operated to take him outside the purview of judicial review.

His Lordship said that there was no doubt that there was a similarity between the two officers. The Ombudsman was not, strictly speaking, an officer of Parliament. He did however have the privileges of such an officer. In addition both officers were subject to the supervision of standing committees of Parliament and both made reports to Parliament.

There was however a significant distinction between the two roles which was critical. The Ombudsman's activities were in relation to what could loosely be called the administration and were not in relation to activities of Parliament.

The Ombudsman investigated the activities of government which were the basic fare of judicial review. Activities of Parliament were not the basic fare of judicial review.

It was important to identify the specific function of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards which was the subject of complaint on the instant application.

It was that a member of Parliament received a corrupt payment. It was rightly argued for Mr Al Fayed that Parliamentary privilege would not prevent the courts investigating issues such as whether a member of Parliament had committed a criminal offence or made a libellous statement outside the House.

It was submitted that consistent with that, the sort of complaint which Mr Al Fayed made was not of an activity in relation to which an member of Parliament would have parliamentary immunity.

Lord Woolf said that the court was not concerned with what the member was doing but with the nature of the role of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards.

He was conducting his activities under the supervision of the relevant committee, because the activity which was complained of could have an effect on the workings of Parliament. It was therefore directly related to what happened in Parliament. That was the really significant distinction between the role of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards and the Ombudsman.

The Ombudsman was concerned with looking at what happened in relation to the administration by government and other relevant public bodies outwith Parliament. He was concerned with the functioning of the public service outside Parliament.

On the other hand the focus of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards was with the workings and activities within Parliament. It was one of the means by which the select committee set up by the House carried out its functions which were accepted to be proceedings of the House.

That being the role of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, it would be inappropriate for the court to use its supervisory powers to control what he did in relation to such an investigation.

The responsibility for supervising him was placed by Parliament, through its standing orders, on the special standing committee of the House and it was for that body to perform the supervisory role and not the courts.

Lord Justice Millett and Lord Justice Mummery agreed.

Solicitors: Dibb Lupton Alsop; Treasury Solicitor.

Power to extend time for statement of claim

Walker and Another v Howard and Another

Before Lord Justice Staughton, Lord Justice Otton and Lord Justice Robert Walker

[Judgment October 29]

It was perfectly within the discretion of a judge to grant an extension of time for serving a statement of claim even though the limitation period had expired.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal brought by the first defendant, John S. Howard, a partner in the second defendant firm of accountants, KPMG, against the decision of Mr Justice Forbes on December 17, 1996 in the Liverpool District Registry of the Queen's Bench Division, when he allowed an appeal by the plaintiffs, Robert William Walker and Beryl Ann Walker, against the decision of Deputy District Judge Grosscurth to set aside service of the writ and statement of claim.

Mr Richard Jacobs for the defendants; Mr Timothy King, QC, and Mr Adrian Lyon for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE STAUGHTON said that the plaintiffs alleged that they had been given negligent advice in 1989 and 1990 and that as a consequence they suffered damage on May 10, 1990.

On February 2, 1996 the writ was issued and served on June 21, 1996. On July 4 the defendants gave notice of their intention to defend. The plaintiffs accordingly had 14 days to serve the statement of claim. They failed to do so and their request for a 28-day extension was refused.

The defendants issued a summons to strike out the action. On August 7 the statement was served out of time without leave. The defendants took out a second summons seeking to strike out service of the writ and statement of claim or have them set aside. The deputy judge struck out the proceedings and Mr Justice Forbes restored them.

It was common ground that the writ was not a nullity but merely defective for lack of particularity which could be cured by a statement of claim. The problem in the present case was that the statement of claim was served out of time.

Mr Jacobs accepted that there was no authority directly in point but argued that the position was analogous to amending a statement of claim. If that was not allowed after the expiry of the limitation period so too an extension of time permitting the serving of the statement of claim to cure the irregularity of the writ should not be allowed. He referred to *Pontin v Wood* ([1962] 1 QB 594).

However, since the amendment to rules of court, particularly Order 20, rule 5, amendments were allowed in certain circumstances although they defeated the defence of limitation.

In his Lordship's judgment, it was important to see if there was any prejudice to the defendants owing to the late introduction of the claim. The writ was served in time albeit at the very end of the limitation period. The service of the writ out of time only added a mere six weeks.

Lord Justice Otton delivered a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Robert Walker agreed.

Solicitors: Travers Smith Braithwaite; Hill Dickinson David Campbell, Liverpool.

No mutuality in bank deposit

Morris and Others v Rayners Enterprises Incorporated and Another

Same v Agrichemicals Ltd and Others

(In re BCCI No 8)

Before Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead, Lord Hoffmann, Lord Hope of Craighead and Lord Hutton

[Judgment October 30]

An agreement between a bank and a depositor to secure a loan by the bank to a company, which created a charge in favour of the bank over the deposit and provided that the deposit would be repayable only if all liabilities of the principal debtor had been discharged, but did not impose personal liability on the depositor was effective security, and would not, on the bank's insolvency, trigger mandatory set-off under rule 4.90 of the Insolvency Rules (SI 1986 No 1925) since there was no mutuality between the depositor and the bank.

The House of Lords so held in dismissing appeals by:

1 Rayners Enterprises Inc, the principal debtor, and Mohammed Jessa, the depositor, and

2 Agrichemicals Ltd, Bishopswood Estates, Eurofert Ltd, Solai Holdings Ltd, Solai Services Ltd, Tradeworth Ltd, the principal depositers, and Société Générale de Gestion et Services SA against the order of the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Rose, Lord Justice Saville and Lord Justice Millett) (*The Times* January 8, 1996): *In re Bank of Credit and Commerce International SA (No 8)* ([1996] Ch 245)) upholding the decision of Mr Justice Rattee (*In re Bank of Credit and Commerce International SA* (*The Times* March 22, 1994; [1995] Ch 46)) that the four joint liquidators of Bank Credit and Commerce International SA, Christopher Morris, John Richards, Stephen Akers and Nicholas Lyle, were entitled to recover the full amount of loans made to Rayners Enterprises Inc and to the Solai group without being required under rule 4.90 of the 1986 Rules to set off the loans against deposits charged to the bank by Mr Jessa and by Societe General to secure the respective loans.

Mr John McDonnell, QC, for the first appellants; Mr Christopher Carr, QC, and Mr Michael Todd, QC, for the second appellants; Mr Michael Crystal, QC, and Mr Robin Dicker for the liquidators.

LORD HOFFMANN said that the bank had made loans to Rayners Enterprises Ltd and the Solai Group. The loans were secured by Mr Jessa and Société Général respectively, both of whom had made deposits with the bank.

Each security document purported (1) to grant the bank a proprietary interest over the deposit in the form of a lien or charge, (2) to warrant that the depositor had not previously encumbered his interest nor would do so in future and (3) to provide that the deposit would only be repayable if all the liabilities of the principal debtor had been repaid.

The document did not contain any promise by the depositor to pay what might be due from the principal debtors to the bank.

The appellants had argued, relying on, inter alia, *MS Fashions Ltd v Bank of Credit and Commerce International SA* ([1993] Ch 425), that the only way in which the transaction as formulated could be given a meaning would be if it were construed as creating a personal liability on the part of the depositor to pay the borrower's indebtedness, since, as the Court of Appeal had found, a charge over a deposit was conceptually impossible and created no proprietary interest in the bank and so would not operate as effective security.

If such an obligation were imposed, it was submitted, the bank would be entitled to set off its claim against the depositor against his claim for the return of the deposit. On the winding up of the bank, the effect of rule 4.90 would be to make such a set-off mandatory.

His Lordship said that the document in *MS Fashions* was construed as creating a personal liability only to give effect to references to the liability of the depositor being that of the debtor.

In the present case, the security document merely created a charge over the deposit and a contractual limitation on the right to withdraw the deposit. It simply could not be construed as creating a personal joint and several obligation, and no cross-claim for the purposes of set-off arose.

Moreover, there was no necessity to construe the document in that way, since his Lordship agreed with the Court of Appeal that it could provide perfectly good security by virtue of the contractual provisions which limited the right of repayment of the deposit and made it a flawed asset.

Further, disagreeing with the Court of Appeal, his Lordship said that the document was effective to create a charge over the deposit in favour of the bank.

If all the features of a charge in favour of a third party could exist, with one immaterial exception, despite the fact that the beneficiary of the charge was a debtor, his Lordship could not see why it could not be said that the debtor had a proprietary interest by way of charge over the debt.

In those circumstances, his Lordship said that rule 4.90 could not apply, since it required at the least the existence of the right to make a pecuniary demand.

A right to appropriate property under one's control or to be discharged from a liability was not the same thing as a right to make a pecuniary demand upon the other party to mutual dealings. Accordingly, since there was no set-off between the depositor and the bank at the bankruptcy date, all the depositor could do was to prove in the liquidation for the recovery of his deposit.

Lord Goff, Lord Nicholls, Lord Hope and Lord Hutton agreed.

Solicitors: Haring Ross Gagrat & Gardi; Charles Russell; Lovell White Durrant.

Psychiatric evidence is required

Regina v Morris (Clarence Barrington)

Before Lord Justice Potter, Mrs Justice Ebsworth and Mr Justice Forbes

[Judgment October 22]

Where, on a charge of assault occasioning actual bodily harm, the victim claimed to have suffered physical pain as a result of the accused's non-physical assault, the case should not go before the jury without psychiatric evidence as to whether such injury, while not directly inflicted, could none the less have been caused by the accused's conduct.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held in allowing an appeal by Clarence Barrington Morris against his conviction in September 1996 at Southwark Crown Court (Judge Butler, QC and a jury) of one offence of assault occasioning actual bodily harm, for which he was sentenced to five years imprisonment, and one offence of common assault for which he was sentenced to a concurrent term of six months.

Mr Barry Kogan, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr Timothy Banks for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE POTTER, giving the judgment of the court, said that according to the evidence of the victim, she had been "stalked" by the appellant and, as a result, had suffered pains in her joints and abdomen, sleeplessness, tension and fear of being alone. Her general practitioner had prescribed medication to help her sleep.

Before the trial commenced, a joint application was made by prosecution and defence for an adjournment to obtain expert psychiatric evidence, following *R v Chan-Fook* ([1994] 1 WLR 689), because her symptoms did not appear to be physically based.

The judge refused the application because he thought the victim was capable of giving an account of her symptoms which, if the jury accepted them, could amount to actual bodily harm. The judge also refused a later submission of no case to answer and the appellant was subsequently convicted.

On appeal it was submitted that the judge erred in law in that he left the jury to decide whether the assault occasioned psychiatric injury in the absence of appropriate expert evidence and that he should have followed the decision in *R v Chan-Fook*.

The Court of Appeal in that case was primarily concerned with the broad question whether or not actual bodily harm was capable of including psychiatric injury and held that where psychiatric injury was relied upon as the basis for an allegation of bodily harm, which was not admitted by the defence, expert evidence had to be called by the prosecution.

In the present case, Mr Banks submitted that the victim spoke not only of symptoms of fear and loss of temper but also of headaches, fatigue and aches and pains of a physical nature, which satisfied the time-honoured definition of bodily harm as including any hurt or injury calculated to interfere with the health or comfort of the victim.

In addition, not only were her symptoms corroborated by way of complaint to her general practitioner, but her statement that she experienced them was unchallenged in cross-examination so that the jury was fully entitled to draw the conclusion that her physical pain, while not directly inflicted, was none the less caused by the conduct of the appellant.

Mr Kogan argued that where the pains complained of were not the direct result of physical trauma inflicted on the victim by the offender, psychiatric considerations almost inevitably arose on the question of causation: first, as to whether the experience suffered by the victim at the hands of the defendant was capable of giving and/or likely to give rise to symptoms of the kind complained of by the victim; and second, the likelihood of other factors in the complainant's daily life being responsible for her symptoms which, ex hypothesi, were psychiatric in origin.

Thus, the observations of Lord Justice Hobhouse in *R v Chan-Fook* on the need for expert evidence to prove a psychiatric injury amounting to bodily harm were equally to be applied to the question of causation.

It seemed to their Lordships that, following the decision in *R v Chan-Fook*, in the absence of psychiatric evidence to support the prosecution case that the victim's symptoms, other than pain, amounted to psychological injury and that the pains experienced were the result of the appellant's non-physical assault, the case should not have been allowed to go before the jury.

Accordingly, the appeal would be allowed, the conviction quashed and a retrial ordered.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, London.

Fenner rises to a record

Fenner, the maker of reinforced polymers and industrial equipment, made record pre-tax profits of £18.5 million in its year to August 31, up from £12.48 million the previous year.

Both years' results were affected by exceptional charges, reflecting restructuring and increased focus on polymers, culminating in the £46.7 million acquisition of Scandura Holdings, in the US, in June.

Operating profits before exceptional items rose to £23.04 million, from £20.17 million, on turnover up to £266.66 million from £258.6 million.

Adjusted earnings per share rose to 14.73p (12.93p) and a final 3.5p lifts the total dividend to 5.3p (5p).

Chronos loss hits Staveley

Staveley Industries, the business services and minerals company, is holding its interim dividend at 2.5p after a fall in pre-tax profits to £4.6 million, from £10.2 million, in the half year to September 27. Earnings per share fell to 2.9p (6.7p).

There was a £3.7 million loss in Chronos Richardson, one of Staveley's two measurement companies, which are to be sold. Staveley said its services business, the focus for growth after the restructuring, lifted operating profits 14 per cent. Chronos losses and associated costs contributed to a rise in net borrowing, to £55.1 million, from £30.2 million at the financial year-end. Gearing rose to 62 per cent (34 per cent).

Volex awaits Ericsson role

Volex, the interconnect products and cable assemblies group, hopes to secure final agreement to become the principal global supplier of cable assemblies to Ericsson Infocom Systems early next month. The agreement is expected to include the purchase by Volex of Ericsson's related operations in Croatia and Malaysia, employing about 280 people.

Volex lifted pre-tax profits to £7.3 million, from £6.3 million, in the half year to September 30. Earnings per share were [illegible].4p (15.2p). The interim dividend, due on February 3, is 7.75p (7.35p).

Dickie payout

James Dickie, the maker of engineering components, is lifting its total dividend to 6.35p, from 6.05p, with a 4.04p final dividend. In the year to August 31, pre-tax profits were little changed at £1.5 million (£1.49 million previously), but included a £385,000 exceptional charge relating to acquisition of A B Pressings. Earnings per share were 10.1p (15p). Since the year-end, demand has been very strong, the company said.

Market fall wipes £400m from CU shareholder funds

By Marianne Curphey
Insurance Correspondent

THE fall in the UK stock market over the past six weeks has wiped almost £400 million off the value of Commercial Union's shareholders' funds, the composite insurer admitted yesterday.

Unveiling a rise in nine-month pre-tax profit from £385 million to £525 million, CU, where John Carter is chief executive, said that shareholders' funds at September 30 stood at £4.4 billion. Operating profit before tax increased from £310 million in the third quarter of 1996 to £358 million in 1997.

Commercial Union was hit by the strength of sterling and said that operating profits would have been £50 million higher but for exchange-rate movements.

The company said its strategy of diversifying geographically in the UK market was paying off and helped to offset a deterioration in the UK market. There were improved results from overseas general insurance business, particularly in France, Australia and the US.

Carter: increased profits

Peter Foster, finance director, said: "General insurance in the UK is clearly very competitive. Underwriting results have deteriorated."

He said CU was trying to raise rates but was finding it difficult to achieve any significant rises.

In UK general insurance profits fell £77 million to £34 million, while life profits increased 25 per cent to £196 million, compared with £156 million for the same nine-month period in 1996.

CU's shares fell 45p to 755p after analysts said there were no signs of a turnaround in general insurance.

In terms of premium income, CU's life business now accounts for 46 per cent of the total, compared with 54 per cent general insurance business. The company has said that it would like to grow the life side in the future.

Operating earnings per ordinary share were 32.4p, compared with 29.2p for the same period in 1996.

Hard Rock to open hotel resort in Bali

By Jon Ashworth

HARD Rock Cafe, the themed restaurant group, is to open a beach and hotel resort in Bali — the first of a string of hotels planned in Asia and Europe.

The $70 million (£41.07 million) Hard Rock Beach Club Bali opens in May, backed by B. S. Ong, the Singapore-based millionaire who has the Hard Rock franchise in South-East Asia.

Hard Rock Hotels & Resorts Management, part of Mr Ong's Hotel Properties Group (HPL), will oversee the expansion, funding deals through joint ventures and paying royalties to Hard Rock.

The project will be inaugurated at a star-studded reception at the Hard Rock Cafe in London tonight. The 417-room Hard Rock Beach Club Bali will be set in three acres on the beach-front at Kuta, one of Asia's best surfing beaches.

Cash-rich group to step up investment drive

By Martin Barrow

THE cash pile of Electrocomponents rose almost £20 million in the past six months in spite of heavy investment in distribution and support facilities, particularly in Asia.

The company, which distributes electronic, electrical and mechanical products, held net cash of £103.9 million at September 30, up £19.4 million from the end of the last financial year.

This was in spite of a 32 per cent increase in investment in products, logistics, systems and marketing to £27 million. Capital expenditure will increase substantially in the second half, mainly on systems and warehouse facilities in France and Singapore.

Roy Cotterill, chairman, said the company would use its cash reserves to take advantage of a number of "attractive investment opportunities".

In the six months to September 30 pre-tax profits rose to £52.4 million from £48.3 million on sales that improved to £315.9 million from £293 million. Analysts had forecast profits of about £49.5 million.

The strengthening of sterling had a significant effect on the published results. At constant exchange rates sales would have been £11.6 million higher than the reported figure and pre-tax profits would have been £700,000 higher.

RS, the company's UK subsidiary, lifted sales 7 per cent. Sales growth in the rest of Europe was 28 per cent. Activities in the rest of the world, principally Asia, enjoyed underlying growth of 26 per cent, after adjusting for the acquisition of the Hong Kong distributor in January.

Mr Cotterill said Hong Kong and China had grown much faster than expected and required further support investment.

Earnings rose to 8.4p a share from 7.6p. The company is lifting the interim dividend to 2.8p a share from 2.4p. Yesterday the shares rose 2p to 436½p, capitalising the company at about £1.85 billion.

Vanguard Medica in £47.9m placing

By Paul Durman

VANGUARD MEDICA is trying to tie up £47.9 million of extra funding in a surprise move that will test the strength of investor interest in the stricken biotechnology sector.

Vanguard still has funds of £35 million and, after a string of disappointments from biotech companies and against a background of general stock market nervousness, the timing of the move struck analysts as odd.

A placing and open offer of shares and warrants will raise £25.7 million now, with the hope of a further £22.2 million after the exercise of the warrants in a year. Investors are offered one "unit" of three new shares and two warrants for every 11 Vanguard shares. The units are priced at £12.15, compared with Vanguard's closing price yesterday of 435p. The exercise price of the warrants is 500p.

International Biotechnology Trust, advised by the Rothschild bioscience unit, is to take up £5.2 million of shares. Jeremy Curnock Cook, who heads the unit, is a director of Vanguard.

DES JENSON

Torquil Montague-Johnstone, left, finance director of Business Post, and Mick Jones, managing director, delivered a 22 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £9.4 million in the six months to September 30. The express delivery company raised earnings per share 23 per cent, to 12.5p. The dividend rises 22 per cent, to 4.4p.

Waddington picks up flotation windfall

By Fraser Nelson

DEMUTUALISATION of building societies handed Waddington, the packaging and printing company, its own windfall from producing flotation documents for Halifax and Woolwich.

The company's specialty printing presses worked to full capacity in the half year, producing five million Halifax share certificates and other conversion documents.

This created an extra £4 million in sales and lifted the division's operating profit 59 per cent to £5.4 million. In turn, this helped to lift the overall pre-tax profit to £17.1 million (£15.5 million) for the six months to October 4, raising earnings per share to 11.7p (10.5p).

Martin Buckley, chief executive, said the company was investing £10 million to add extra presses to cope with demand from the new banks.

That work offset a decline in results from its carton packaging arm, which suffered from the strong pound and sluggish European demand to leave profits 11 per cent down at £4.1 million.

Mr Buckley said that an extra £10 million was being invested in carton packaging to meet an expected demand from food suppliers.

The company is now expected to make £35.7 million profit (£32.1 million) for the full year and pay a dividend of 11.4p (10.4p).

An interim payout of 4.7p (4.4p) is due on January 16.

Tempus, page 28

Nikkei falls to two-year low

By George Sivell

THE Japanese stock market fell to a two-year low and the yen fell sharply against the US dollar as investors expressed scepticism over the likely impact of an economic package due to be announced tomorrow.

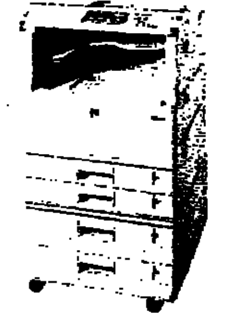
The Nikkei 225 average fell 433.06 points, or 2.73 per cent, to close at 15,434.17, its lowest for two years. The Nikkei December future lost 540 to close at 15,300, while the yen closed at a six-month low against the dollar of Y125.82. The dollar has gained Y5.46 in Tokyo during the past seven trading days and now stands at its highest since Y125.84 on May 6.

The ruling Liberal Democratic Party is expected tomorrow to launch a second economic stimulus package after the apparent failure of a first set of proposals last month to revive market confidence. Dealers in Tokyo said they expect little of the second package. The Tokyo markets want to see a growth package that includes income tax cuts but are likely instead to see only measures to encourage private investment and the buying of second homes.

Japan faces further problems from the falling yen. As the value of overseas-held Japanese stocks falls foreign investors have been selling yen-denominated assets, further squeezing share prices.

One analyst said that the falling yen should help Japanese exporters but that because the weakness stems from the economy it is depressing the share markets.

Renewed concerns about a further decline in Hong Kong shares also dampened sentiment in Tokyo, traders said. The Hang Seng closed down 396.22 points at 9,607.91.



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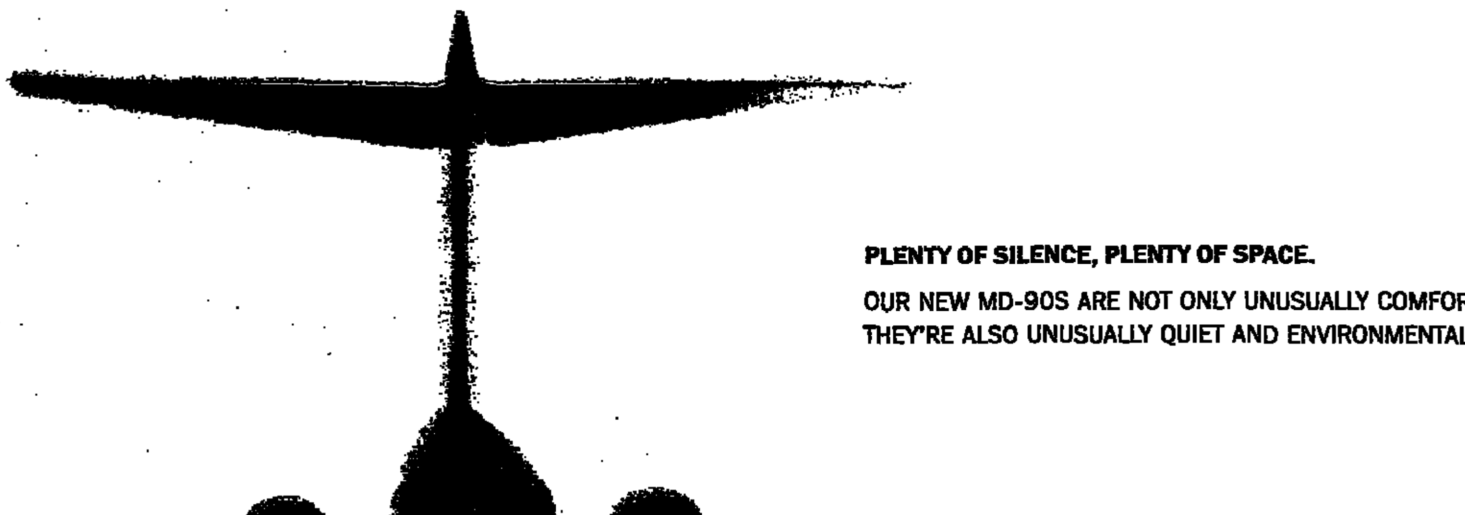

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Equities and gilts sharply lower

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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
529	407½	Allied Domecq	496	-12	5.1	12.3
636	385	Bulmer (HP)	430	..	4.2	12.0
75½	40½	Burn Stewart†	48½		9.1	16.2
1040	865	Glenmorangie A	975		1.7	24.1
638	425½	Grand Met	545	-1½	3.5	17.5
630½	424	Guinness	547	..	3.5	15.0
380	280	Highland Distl	314	-5	3.6	14.2
336	213	Matthew Clark	226½	-6	13.2	6.7
70½	52½	Merrydown W	53½	-1½	7.2	13.2
2009¼	1430	SA Breweries	1471¼	-58	2.4	.

BANKS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1521¼	918¾	ABN-AMRO	1134¾	-9¾	2.8	16.3
991½	710	Abbey Nat	932	-46	3.7	15.3
770	532½	Alliance & Leic	685	+5	3.0	16.0
583	388½	Allied Irish	496½	-13½	3.6	14.1
516¼	353¾	Aus New Z	395¼	+4¼	4.8	
4931¼	2875	Bank America	4100	-168¾		
548	291½	Bank Scotland†	474	-9	2.3	13.1
1800	978½	Barclays	1490	-23	2.8	14.1
814½	517½	Bk of Ireland	774½	-11	2.6	17.1
8958¾	6006¼	Citicorp	7172½	-218¾		
1759¼	1268¾	Commerzbk	1650	-12½	2.8	.
862½	431¼	Dai Ichi Kan Y	431¼	-9¾	0.9	.
4593¾	2709¾	Deutsche Bk	3716¾	-68¾	1.8	
1300	759¾	Espirito Santo	1150	-3½	3.1	..
947½	395	Fuji Bank Y	395	-32½	1.0	76.8
2369½	1272½	HSBC	1382	-34	4.2	11.2
2258¾	1226	HSBC HK	1317	-33	4.4	10.7
783	507	Halifax	666	-22	2.8	22.4
645	483½	Irish Perm	590		2.6	16.3
860½	424	Lloyds TSB	717	-27½	2.5	20.9
1008	689½	Nat Aust Bk	849¾	-3¼	4.6	
1012½	683¼	Nat West	848	-18	4.4	13.4
504½	449	Northern Rock	478	-3	2.4	18.9
723½	508	Ryl Bk Scot	647	-18	3.7	13.9
1093½	592½	Stand Chart	611½	-12	3.2	10.7
£164¾	£164¾	Wells Fargo	£164¾		1.9	.
403¼	315½	Westpac	355¾		4.1	
373½	267½	Woolwich	287½	-3½	3.4	17.0

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
878½	685	Bass	829	+1	3.9	15.6
68¼	43½	Bit for the Bdt	48½	+½	4.6	10.3
205	132½	Burtonwd Brw	146	+1	6.7	12.7
155½	121½	City Centre Rest	130½		2.4	20.3
744½	575½	Compass Gp	662	-3½	1.7	23.9
305	250	Eldridge P A	261½		2.7	14.4
266½	221	Enterprise Inns	282	+½	3.3	18.5
485	412	Fullr Smi A	427½		2.9	14.9
586	310	Greenalls Grp	367½		5.4	9.1
770	610	Greene King	641½		3.2	13.8
237½	152½	Grosvenor Inns†	200½	.	4.8	20.9
283½	218½	Groupe Chez Gert	273½		1.5	22.1
298½	226½	Hardy Hanson	232½		5.9	10.3
2850	2400	Hall J	2450	-12½	3.1	13.7
78	59	Inn Business	60½		3.4	9.7
357	305	Mansfield	306½	-1½	2.9	13.4
315½	252	Marston Thmp	272½	-1½	3.7	9.5
615	496	Morland	501		3.2	12.9
266½	210	Old Eng Pub	244½	-2	1.2	19.2
47½	18½	Paramount	21½	..	..	..
853	527½	PizzaExpress†	779	+½	0.5	40.3
437½	327½	Ransdens (H)	330	-2½	1.9	29.2
378½	362½	Regent Inns†	287½		1.4	23.2
130	102½	SFI†	117½	-2	0.8	25.0
768½	566	Scot & New	660	-4	4.0	14.1
305	232½	Vaux Group	242½		5.5	10.9
1632½	1105	Wetherspoon JD	1628½	-3	0.8	37.6
863	620	Whitbread	794	+1	3.9	13.5
706½	434	Wolvrhmptn D	434	-11½	5.1	9.4

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

BUILDING MATERIALS

CHEMICALS

DISTRIBUTORS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
225	162½	Car Group	191½		2.5	20.6
165½	117½	Caverdale	156½	.	3.0	9.1
100	61½	Charles Sidney†	86	..	4.6	12.3
59½	43	Cook (DC)	43	-3½	7.0	5.8
121	90½	Day Motors†	103½	-½	9.7	6.7
134½	102½	Dawsons El	103	...	3.4	9.4
400	217	Diploma	245½		7.4	9.3
602½	387½	Electrocomponts	435	+½	2.3	23.3
236½	117½	Eurodis Elec	157		4.1	30.7
105	76½	European Mtr	95½	-½	7.3	8.6
300	213	Evans Halshaw	298	.	6.9	
55½	38½	Fife Indmar	47½	..	8.9	7.8
397½	275	Firstlist Gp	330		2.9	14.6
34½	22½	Gardiner	22½		5.3	8.3
79½	57½	Glenchewton	69		2.8	11.2
110	82½	Gowrings	102½	-1	3.8	17.0
15½	11	HR Owen	11½	-1	7.9	7.8
103	20½	Hamlet	22½	...		2.1
272½	232½	Harris (Philip)†	270	...	4.6	10.4
374	284½	Headlam	336½	-1	2.3	19.7
172	145	Holders Tech	155	.	5.2	12.7
240½	87½	ISA Intl	89	+½	4.2	6.9
308½	204	Inchcape	214	-5	5.7	14.1
72	49½	Jacks (Wm)†	56½		5.8	7.1
343½	214½	Kwik-Fit	321½	-1	2.3	17.6
460½	316½	Lex Service	409½	-3½	5.1	12.2
122	97	Lookers	114½		8.7	8.2
9	5½	Middlesex	6½	-¼	1.9	15.9
41½	10½	Midstreet†	18		3.3	
472	180	Morbam	327	+1	3.2	11.1
223	114½	Northumbr	218½	-½	0.8	15.3
352½	297½	Parkol†	304½	-6	3.3	16.2
394½	254½	Pendragon	287½	-2	4.4	12.7
223½	172½	Perry Grp	182	-1½	6.3	8.0
751	421½	Premier Farnell†	421½	-14½	3.7	15.6
144½	116	Quicks Group A	120½		7.8	8.0
367	285	REA	285		1.7	65.2
2½	1½	Reece	1½			50.2
28	9½	Ronson	10	-1	.	
4	1¼	Ross Gp	2½			
109½	78½	Ryland	90½		5.6	8.5
38	24	SEP Ind	29½	-½	6.6	13.6
92½	35	Saltire	32½		4.6	
415½	231½	Time Products	238½	-2	6.6	9.6
347	166	Trust Motor Grp	168½		8.5	7.3
408	328	UMECO	397½	-2½	1.8	21.1
93½	59	United Gases Gp	87½	-½	0.5	19.5
352½	267½	Vardy (Reg)	295	-1	3.2	14.1
685	498½	WF Elect	653		2.9	22.4
41	25½	Wilshaw	34½	-1	3.1	9.2
172½	111½	Wyko	150		2.5	16.7
159½	119½	Young (H)	147½	.	3.6	12.5

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
492½	327½	Antofagasta▼	380		1.7	19.5
328	232	Ascot Hldgs	275	-3½	2.4	12.0
917	575¾	Broken Hill	587½	-22½	3.5	15.7
280	180½	BTR†	198¾	-4¼	5.5	6.9
624	462	BAT†	537	+2	6.1	13.3
60½	41	Brierley Inv	43½	-¼	11.0	7.1
395	182	Cookson†	221½	-4	4.5	13.9
239½	197½	Cosalt	211½		6.1	9.2
415	255½	DCC	380	-5	2.5	14.4
330	243½	Galliher	290	+½	8.3	9.1
140½	101½	Hanson Cr./M	121½	-1	9.1	13.6
687½	336½	Hutch Whamp	351½	-20½	3.2	22.1
438½	361	Imperial Tob	376	-1	6.6	7.5
522¾	328¼	Jardine Math†	335½	-1¼	4.4	13.5
158½	87	Lonrho	95	-3	8.2	10.0
175½	141½	McLeod Russel	171		5.0	13.6
458½	388½	Powell Duffryn	424½		7.4	12.1
197½	141½	Stanley	155½	-12	7.4	30.0
604½	274½	Swire Pacific	274½	-17½	4.9	
397½	313	TT Group	325	-21½	3.1	13.3
351	252½	Tomkins	282½	-11	4.2	13.4
210	165	Unidare	186		8.5	9.8
498	350	Wardle Storeys	381½	+9	7.0	
387½	285½	Wassall†	332½	-4	2.6	14.9

ELECTRICITY

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

ENGINEERING

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1333½	897	Siebe	1069	-31	1.5	20.4
227½	105½	Six Hundred	119	+1½	5.3	2.7
993½	708½	Smiths Ind†	862	+32	2.6	20.3
767	595	Spirax-Sarco†	615	-36½	2.8	15.9
303½	239½	Sterling Ind	252½		5.6	12.3
698½	450	TI	511	-18	3.4	16.3
120½	88½	Tinsley (E)	101½	..	7.5	9.5
120½	92½	Translec	93½	-6	3.3	12.7
229½	144½	Triplex Lloyd	206½	-1½	4.2	15.8
77½	48½	Utd Indst	57		5.5	14.6
273½	169½	Vickers	235½	-18	3.8	14.7
10½	7½	Vibes Gp	7½	-1		..
712½	505	Vitec	650	-4	2.4	12.2
952	742	Vosper Thorny	878	+½	3.7	14.2
350	213½	Wagon Ind	258½		5.8	11.3
304½	203½	Weir	260½	-8½	3.9	12.7
259½	165½	Wellington Hdgt	189½	..	6.0	9.8
38½	23	Wellman	37½	-½	6.2	11.9
71½	45½	Wescol†	65½		2.3	
625	525	[illegible]	815		2.1	23.9
65½	30½	Widney	45		8.7	..

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
154	97	Adwest†	149	+½	5.6	12.1
197	162	Airflow Stream†	165	.	6.1	11.9
757	585	Avon Rubber	640	-10	3.9	13.3
344	227½	Bostrom†	343		2.6	17.2
140	96	Britax	129	-1½	3.3	16.8
339½	238½	Dennis	316½		3.6	14.5
916½	657½	First Tech	916½	+2½	1.5	24.1
1480	907	GKN	1275	-31	2.5	
4395½	3237½	General Mtr	3578½	-77½	3.2	.
583½	357	Henlys	405½		4.8	9.7
2323¾	1540¾	Honda Motor	1871¾	-44¾	0.4	
502	312½	Laird	424	-1½	3.7	11.6
245	180	LucasVarity	194	-6½	2.8	14.8
208	131	Mayflower†	176½		1.7	25.0
172½	127½	Sutone	128½	+½	6.2	9.4
257½	123	T & N†	250½	+½	4.6	..
85½	25	Tead	27½		...	..

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
577	418	AB Food	520½	+8½	2.4	12.1
311½	250	Acatos & Hutch	282½		4.6	23.7
48½	34	Albert Fisher†	37½	-½	11.2	9.8
320	275	Banks (S C)	304		4.7	10.8
450	322	Barr (AG)	410	-5	3.2	14.7
43	30	Bensons Crsp	33½		4.2	8.3
402	244	Booker†	323½	-3	9.3	
62½	20½	Borthwick	61½		2.6	39.2
220	83	CPL Aromas	90		6.7	24.1
634	464	Cadbury-Schwpt	591	-3	3.4	16.0
335	250	Carrs Milling	282½	.	5.2	
81½	57½	Caughan	62½		7.4	11.6
257½	203½	Cranswick	252½	-1	5.2	11.9
281	195½	Dairy Crest Group†	258½	-2	4.9	10.9

HEALTHCARE

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
285	86½	ENIC	221	-7	0.3	.
94	47½	Edin Dragon	54½	-3	.	
34	24	Edinburgh Inca	25½	-1½	.	
434½	343½	Edinburgh IT†	389	-6	3.5	30.9
134	79½	Edin Japan	80½	-5½	..	
462	312	Edin US Tst	405½	-7½	1.7	69.4
612½	420½	Electra Inv	487½	-4	2.3	45.6
167½	143	Eng & Scot	147½	-4½	2.5	38.4
422	307½	European Asset	384½	-7	1.3	.
173½	52	Fidelity Asian Val	55½	-3		
293½	216½	Fidelity Euro Val	267	-6	0.2	.
50	39½	Fidelity Jap Val	39½	-2½	...	..
112	47½	INVESCO Asia	52½	-2½	1.6	64.2
84	48½	INVESCO Blue	75½	.	13.8	8.9
198½	165	INVESCO Eng Int	176	-½	0.5	73.3
60½	30½	INVESCO Jap Dis	30½	-1½	.	...
90½	41½	INVESCO Korea	41½	-1½	.	
47	26½	INVESCO Tokyo	27	-½	.	...
120	82½	J Fry Euro U	114	.	5.9	24.8
165½	95	JF Fledg Jap	95½	-2½		
117½	92½	Jupiter Ex Inc†	113	+½	8.7	11.1
16½	3½	Jupiter Ex IncWA	12½		...	
90	76½	Jupiter Gel Cap	90	.	11.3	10.9
42	31	Jupiter Gel Ptd	39½	-½	...	..
139½	120½	Jupiter Intl Grn	135	-½	3.6	...

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1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
399½	293	Klnwt Chrt	341½	-8½	2.2	50.9
118½	65½	Klnwt E Mkt	67½	-6	.	..
174	153½	Klnwt Eur	168	-1		
112½	74	Klnwt H Inc	106	-1	12.7	10.8
368½	261	Klnwt O'seas	315½	-8½	1.8	61.1
189½	161½	Klnwt Smlr	177½	-1	2.5	47.4
387	145	Korea—Euro	145	-½	0.8	68.8
173½	98½	Latin American	112	-4½		
1138	902½	Law Debenture	1052½	-5	3.3	31.9
122	103½	Lib Dtl Opp	119½		.	.
133	109½	Lloyds Sm Cap	122	+½	..	.
25½	16½	Lloyds Sm Dtr	18½		29.1	4.6
158½	138	Lloyds Sm Pkg	133½		3.8	..

LEISURE & HOTELS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
91½	30	ABI Leis	32		19.9	3.1
1243½	797	Airtours	1137½	-12½	1.8	20.6
59½	30	Ald Leist	34		3.7	11.1
67½	37½	Arcadian	59½	-1	2.6	24.7
22½	9½	Arena Leis	20½	..	..	..
167½	127½	BS Group	145	..	5.6	
132½	95	Baldwin	129		4.2	16.8
200½	79½	Bluebird Toys†	103½	+1½	10.9	7.7

MEDIA

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
430	202½	Dunlop Nott	272½	-10	2.1	45.1
902½	715½	EMAP	898½	+5	1.8	23.5
705	450	EMI	504	-7	3.5	36.5
1722½	841½	Elsevier	923½	-8½	2.8	21.2
1840	1400	Euromoney Pb	1720	...	3.6	21.5
49	37	Fitch	47½		1.6	11.7
803½	502½	Flextech	509	-5½	..	
232½	187½	GBT Group	189	-½	4.1	
232½	167½	GWR Gp	176	-1½	2.0	28.7
392½	285½	Gearhouse Group†	374	-1	2.4	14.3
37½	24½	Goodwood†	36½	-½	1.4	18.9
345	254	HIT Entert	290		0.2	43.1
287½	207½	Haynes Pub	287½	.	4.9	11.9
22½	6½	Highbury Hse	9			
230	180	Hodder H'line†	201	-½	4.2	13.7
285	231	Home Counts	240	.	3.0	23.3
415½	295	IBC	409½	-½	3.0	14.3
26½	18½	Incepta	21½	-½		12.9
407½	297½	Independent	340	-5	2.4	23.3
145	95	Intereurope†	123½	-6½	4.8	8.1
229½	172½	Johnston Press	211½	-1	1.6	19.4
45	25	Lopex	33		3.2	8.8
247½	140	MAID	215			
327½	272½	Maident	301½	.	2.3	18.5
45½	26½	MediaKey†	35		4.1	13.4
1265	950	Metal Bulletin	1025	-40	2.5	29.2

OIL & GAS

OTHER FINANCIAL

MINING

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
44½	8½	St Barbara	10½	-1	...	..
397½	188½	St Helena	188½	-2	10.9	
349½	153½	Sons Gwalia	153½	-½	6.6	10.8
220½	119	[illegible]	132½	-5	...	...
1859¾	965½	Southvaal	975		10.5	9.8
4793¾	2378¾	Vaal Reefs	2378¾	-3½	9.0	
418	204½	WMC	227½	-4	3.8	18.4
37½	16	Wankie Col Z	27	...	4.0	9.7
67½	27½	Water Hall	45½	...		
480	405	Watts Blake†	452½	-1	4.5	15.9
2182½	1168½	Western Deep	1168½	-40½	6.9	..
308	66½	Zambia Copper	148	-6½	..	

PHARMACEUTICALS

PRINTING & PAPER

PROPERTY

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1850	1305¾	Mountview	1509¾		3.5	12.3
156	125	Muckiow (A&J)†	148	...	5.9	17.2
46	32	OEM	35			3.0
65½	45½	OBS	52½			
32½	24½	Olives Prop	29½	-½	2.1	14.2
732½	471½	Peel	650	-2½	1.5	
283	184½	Pillar Prop	256	-3	2.3	43.5
38½	14½	Premier Land	15½	-½	...	
155	131½	Quintain	155	...	2.9	26.6

RETAILERS, FOOD

RETAILERS, GENERAL

SUPPORT SERVICES

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THE TIMES

Portfolio

£1,000 to be won

Check the numbers on your Portfolio card and find your eight stocks in the *Portfolio* panel below. In the column provided next to your eight shares enter the share movements as published on this page. *Ignore fractions, ie enter* 16½ as 16 (the symbol ... means no change). After listing the price changes of your eight shares, add or subtract as appropriate to find your total which can be plus or minus. If your overall total matches exactly the points required for the daily dividend you win or share the £1,000 daily prize.

No	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	VTR	Media	
2	Denby Group	House Gds	
3	Shire Pharms	Pharm'cals	
4	Capita Group	Sup Serv	
5	Allnce&Leic	Banks	
6	Whitbread	Breweries	
7	Telspec	Electronic	
8	RMC Gp	Bld Mats	
9	Berry Bch Nbl	Oth Fin	
10	Waddington	Print Pap	
11	Azlan	Electronic	
12	JJB Sports	Ret Gen	
13	Cattles	Oth Fin	
14	Cussins	Bld & Cons	
15	Amey	Bld & Cons	
16	Anglian	Water	
17	Macfarlane	Print Pap	
18	Sinclair (Wm)	Leisure	
19	Natnl Powr	Electy	
20	Christies Int	Ret Gen	
21	PSD	Sup Serv	
22	Davis Service	Sup Serv	
23	Plasmec	Electronic	
24	South West	Water	
25	UniChem	Healthcare	
26	Adscene	Media	
27	Alendra W	Textiles	
28	BT	Telecomms	
29	Sage Gp	Sup Serv	
30	Bass	Breweries	
31	Burtnwd Brw	Breweries	
32	Britannic	Insurance	
33	Sun Life & P	Insurance	
34	Sims Food	Food Man	
35	Atkins WS	Sup Serv	
36	Londn & Man	Insurance	
37	Nthn Ireland	Elecy	
38	Nthn Foods	Food Man	
39	BAT	Div Inds	
40	Courtld Text	Textiles	
41	Norbain	Distrib's	
42	EMAP	Media	
43	Whtbd Mann	Sup Serv	
44	Towry Law	Oth Fin	

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Portfolio

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Please make a note of your daily totals to match the weekly dividend published in the *Sunday Times* to win £5,000.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun

Weekly accumulator total

Two winners shared the prize yesterday, each receiving £500. They are: D Teale, Boroughbridge, Yorkshire; J Pearce, Woburn Sands, Milton Keynes

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
67½	50	Jerome (S)†	51	-½	7.7	12.4
380	289	Jones Stroud	350	-1	3.9	16.7
185	110	Lambert	185	.	5.4	12.4
195	116	Lamont†	133½	+7	12.0	11.1
173	105	Leeds	121		7.0	9.8
39½	21½	Leslie Wise Gp	24	..	11.7	18.4
77	47	Lyles (S)†	76	..	3.7	12.6
18½	7½	Maling	16½	.	1.5	62.9
8½	3½	PEX	3½	-½	...	6.0
207½	165½	Parkland	178	...	4.7	7.7
118	88	Pentland	103½		4.3	15.6
183	71	Pittards	73½	-7	6.0	5.0
46½	35	Readicut	38½	..	8.4	12.4
45½	19½	Richards	35	..	7.1	.
40½	23½	SEET	23½	-2½	..	..
40½	27	Sherwood Gp†	29	..	15.5	28.2
144½	110½	Silkolt	111½		4.5	7.8
72½	55½	Sirdar†	56	-1	12.8	8.1
38½	31½	Stirling Gp	38	...	7.6	10.1
18½	8½	UK Safety	11			13.4

TRANSPORT

WATER

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
WHITTINGDALE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0171 623 2444				
Short Dtd Gilt	130.10	131.60		...
US Govt Bd (US$)	0.8173	0.8207	+ 0.01	
Gilt Income	52.16	52.98	- 0.15	6.30
Gilt Growth	85.74	87.09	- 0.37	..
Sterling Bond	50.99	51.04	- 0.33	6.20
WOOLWICH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0181 298 4000				
Intl Mngd	61.81	65.68	...	1.61
UK Stockmarket	120.10	127.80		2.28
Corporate Bd Inc	50.15	50.26		5.88
Do Accum	54.45	54.56		5.88

Source: FT Information

* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return). † Ex dividend; ‡ Middle price; ... No significant data. # Periodic Charge deducted from capital; @ Exit Charge.

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Me Tarzan, says Jane

NEW MOVIES: Geoff Brown watches Demi Moore flex her pecs in Ridley Scott's grey and gung-ho *G.I. Jane*

The film of the year? **G.I. Jane** could well be so, for anyone with strong feelings for — or against — Demi Moore. After a string of recent flops, she is back in the spotlight for two solid hours, strutting her body and clenching muscles during a gruelling Navy training programme that turns macho men to jelly. She hauls herself over obstacle courses; gets dragged through mud and beaten black and blue.

Subjected to constant harassment and practical jokes, especially from Viggo Mortensen, she keeps herself in fighting trim doing one-handed press-ups and chinning exercises. Determined to play the men's game, she shaves her hair down to a skinhead's skull, beds down in their barracks, and joins them boozing at the bar. "Hey, you're all right!" says one of the bozos. By the end of the picture, training is over: she is seeing real action, flexing her pecs in the Libyan desert, where an American satellite needs rescuing.

To make matters merrier, or in my case worse, all this is filmed by Ridley Scott in his most soulless, machine-tooled style. Everything is honed and polished for maximum effect. The colour scheme is black, grey and blue. Much happens at night, in the rain. Scott has often showcased strong women (look at *Alien*, or *Thelma and Louise*), but this is his boldest parade yet.

The film's spectacle is extraordinary, and so blatantly thrust before us. How can subtler matters, of plot and politics, make any headway against Moore's shaven head glinting in the moonlight? Her character, Lieutenant Jordan O'Neil of Navy Intelligence, lands herself in the training camp through the manoeuvrings of a woman senator who makes a fuss over equal opportunities. Washington's games give Anne Bancroft a role to relish, but do not do much for the film's serious credentials. Hokum and cliché keep poking through, and the film's upbeat climax — added after test audiences reacted badly to something more sombre — only increases the film's remoteness from reality.

Cinema puts a better foot forward with **Last Summer in the Hamptons**, now two years old and the most persuasive of recent films by the veteran American independent, Henry Jaglom. On the surface, there is plenty to irritate. The characters are an elite group of theatre folk, an extended family who gather at one of those leafy summer retreats that bring to mind Chekhov, Bergman or Woody Allen, but rarely life as one knows it. And they talk and talk, in the heated, psychological fashion of a therapy session or a Method acting class. But Jaglom, for once, gives us a break from his own neuroses and marital problems: the film looks outward, and smiles on the human comedy of love, confusion, fear and jealousy.

G.I. Jane
Warner West End
15, 125 mins
The Demi Moore muscle show

Last Summer in the Hamptons
Metro, 15, 108 mins
Henry Jaglom, back on form

Chasing Amy
Curzon Phoenix
18, 114 mins
The director of Clerks *matures a little*

Incognito
Warner West End
15, 108 mins
Foolish thriller about art forgery

Trial and Error
ABC Panton Street
12, 98 mins
An error to make it, and a trial to watch

The advent of Victoria Hoyt, Jaglom's new wife, co-scriptwriter and leading actress may well be behind the film's accessible style. She is certainly crucial to the plot. Her role is Oona Hart, a rising Hollywood actress who feels her insecurities mount among the stage actors gathered in the Long Island home of the matriarch (played by the late Viveca Lindfors). The troupe is rehearsing a play for the last of its annual summer productions. Hoyt, however, spends more time girding her psychological loins with exercises in animal behaviour: she imitates a leopard and a baby seal, to startling effect. Surrounding characters fight their own battles: Jon Robin Baitz's hot gay playwright, André Gregory's charismatic director, preening fathers, surly daughters, all with their secrets and desires.

As director, Jaglom keeps himself hidden away, letting the comedy and drama unravel naturally. At times the film drags its feet, but it only takes Lindfors to hold forth, radiant and mesmerising in old age, or Gregory to flash his impish eyes, or Hoyt to mock her characters' pretensions, for the wisdom and fun to resume.

Kevin Smith, the director of *Clerks*, was a mewling baby when Jaglom shot his first feature in 1971, and he still has lots of growing up to do. Back comes his favourite topic: guys talking about sex. His turf remains the New Jersey suburbs of his own youth; his camera style remains blunt. But **Chasing Amy**, his third feature, marks a clear step forward. The plot matters more. The characters matter more. Women matter more.

But not Amy: she never appears. Our heroine, instead, is Alyssah (Joey Lauren Adams), comic book artist, livewire and lesbian. Despite her leanings, she finds herself drawn to Ben Affleck's Holden, half of the team behind the comic *Bluntman & Chronic*. While Holden's work partner looks on, appalled, Holden falls headlong for Alyssah's charms, before being pulled up short by lurid tales from her past. Can the gender barriers be broken and true love flourish?

Audience involvement in this question is somewhat curtailed by Adams herself, whose high, pinched voice comes to grate on the ears. But there is something honest about Smith's groping towards sensitive issues; at the very least, cross-over sex gives his slacker characters something new to babble about as they slouch in front of the TV.

First shot, the Houses of Parliament. Second shot, Tower Bridge. Third shot, Ian Holm with an American accent. **Incognito**, an American romantic thriller mounted in Europe, does not begin promisingly, nor does it improve. The film's one claim to mild originality is the occasional focus on the business of art forgery. "I need genuine badger hair brushes," Jason Patric cries as he seeks to recreate a lost Rembrandt. His shopping list also includes ancient pigments, scrapings from an existing painting, and the opinion of the world's foremost Rembrandt authority, a young, lissom miss played by Irène Jacob.

But any advantage the forgery background might supply is lost as the film plays silly games of murder, pursuit and country-hopping. London one minute, Paris, New York or Amsterdam the next. John Badham, the director, fashions this old-fashioned claptrap with a certain flourish, but, really, who cares?

At the press showing, *Incognito* prompted far more laughter than **Trial and Error**, which was actually supposed to be funny. An out-of-work actor (Michael Richards from *Seinfeld*) deputises for an attorney chum incapacitated by drink, and finds himself defending a fraud case. Neither Richards nor his co-star Jeff Daniels is well treated by the script, which wanders between routine slapstick and woozy stuff about acquiring self-knowledge, or the bald direction of Jonathan Lynn. This is the kind of film you wouldn't even watch on a plane.

Will Demi Moore and Viggo Mortensen ever become best buddies? Don't hold your breath

'Horrible. I loved it'

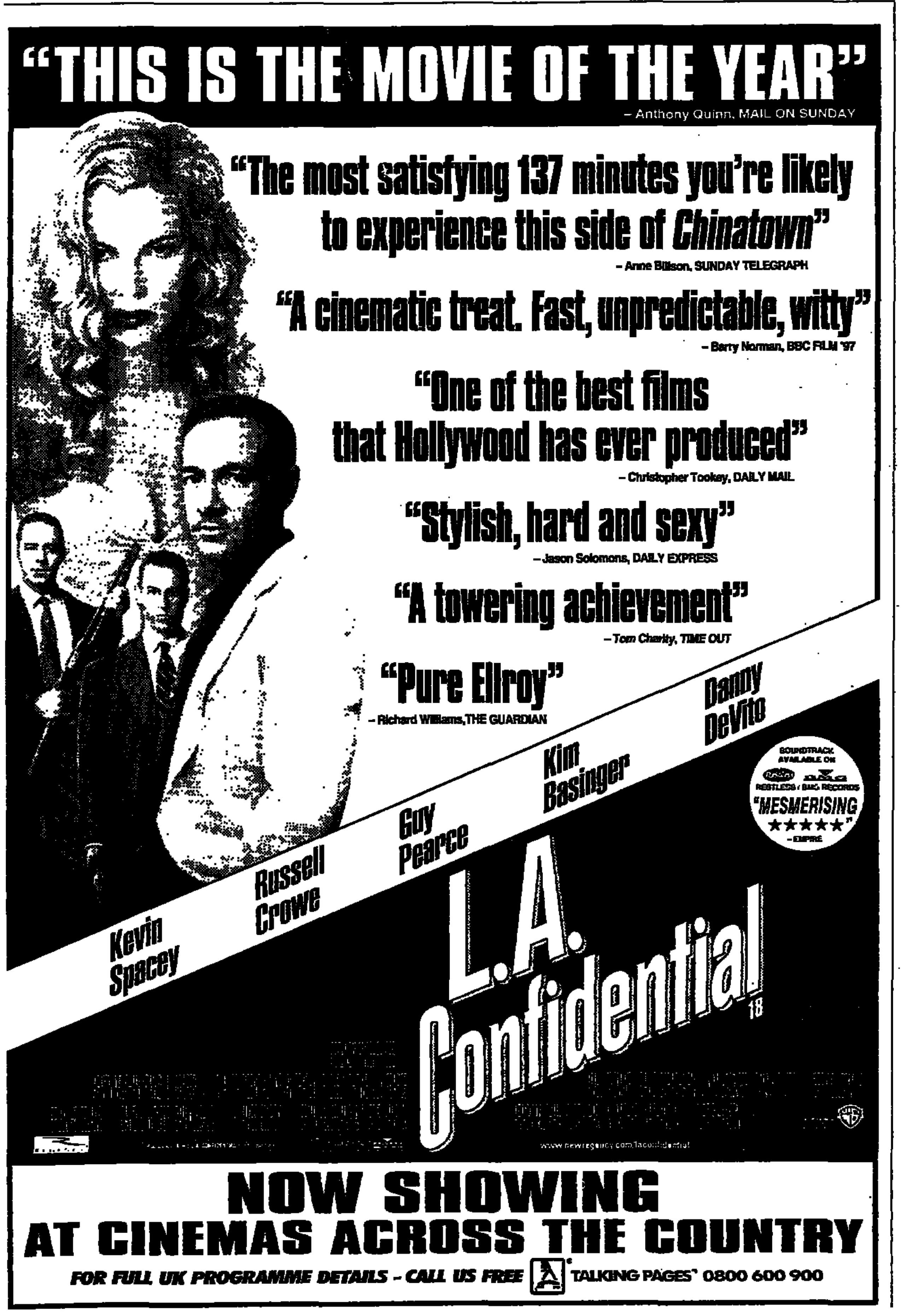
Every week, young film fans discuss the latest releases . . .

SNAP VERDICT

□ ***G.I. JANE***
Leslie Isaiah Thomas, 19: I accurately predicted the storyline and almost all of the dialogue. Welcome to cliché movie-making.
Dominic Young, 18: Both Demi Moore and the movie were very disappointing.
Jethro Aukin, 19: Preposterous, disgusting, horrible. I loved it.
Sharada Osman, 18: The Navy? Not for me. You can leave me at the kitchen sink any day.

□ ***CHASING AMY***
Leslie: Writer/director Kevin Smith has written a script so good it could be on the stage.
Dominic: Former skateboarder Jason Lee gives a remarkably competent performance.
Jethro: One of the most enjoyable films of the year.
Sharada: Great performances in a great movie. Very funky stuff.

□ ***INCOGNITO***
Leslie: The stars were the extras; lots of pointing and rhubarb rhubarb.
Dominic: The police detective looks as if he has stepped out of 1950s British TV.
Jethro: I laughed, but I don't think I was supposed to.
Sharada: This film about art is not exactly a masterpiece.


"THIS IS THE MOVIE OF THE YEAR"
– Anthony Quinn, MAIL ON SUNDAY
"The most satisfying 137 minutes you're likely to experience this side of *Chinatown*"
– Anne Billson, SUNDAY TELEGRAPH
"A cinematic treat. Fast, unpredictable, witty"
– Barry Norman, BBC FILM '97
"One of the best films that Hollywood has ever produced"
– Christopher Tookey, DAILY MAIL
"Stylish, hard and sexy"
– Jason Solomons, DAILY EXPRESS
"A towering achievement"
– Tom Charity, TIME OUT
"Pure Ellroy"
– Richard Williams, THE GUARDIAN
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His latest role? Dead man working

Tim Robbins directed a movie, then another to get over the first – and then collapsed. **Martyn Palmer** reports

Tim Robbins in his latest film, *Nothing to Lose*, a comedy thriller far removed from his work on the Oscar-winning *Dead Man Walking*

Shortly after the release of the critically acclaimed *Dead Man Walking*, Tim Robbins, its director, had his sanity questioned by a friend who had just been told that Robbins's next project was a lightweight comedy thriller. "He asked me what I was doing and I told him about this comedy, *Nothing to Lose*, and he said: 'Man, you don't need to do that, you're a serious director now, you're set. What are you doing that for?'

"I said: 'That's a lot of responsibility, being a *serious* director, I'm not that sure I want that. I don't know that I want to be defined as anything and I sure don't want to take myself too seriously . . .'

"I don't want to be in a position where I think of myself as someone who doesn't do a silly comedy. That's part of the game, part of the experience: you do things that can move people and make them think, and you should also do things that make people laugh."

Of course, he has made plenty of "serious" films. As well as *Dead Man Walking*, which won an Oscar for his partner, Susan Sarandon, he appeared alongside Morgan Freeman in the prison drama *The Shawshank Redemption* and starred as a troubled Vietnam veteran in the underrated *Jacob's Ladder*. But he made his name with comedy, and in particular *Bull Durham*, the charming 1989 baseball movie during which he first met Sarandon.

"I made *Nothing to Lose* right after I finished *Dead Man Walking* because I needed to blow out, I needed to remember why I started doing this stuff in the first place — to stand up in front of people and make them laugh. Other actors get typecast in one kind of role, one kind of film they have to repeat over and over again. When *Bull Durham* was a hit I got a lot of offers to do big, dumb guys. I could have made an industry out of that, but I resisted it."

Making *Nothing to Lose* was to have been an energising contrast to the exhausting demands of writing and directing a piece as sombre as *Dead Man Walking*. At any rate, that is what Robbins hoped. The reality was rather different. "It's actually very difficult to do a comedy," he says. "You don't have an audience there to give you an instant reaction, so you don't know if they are going to laugh or not. Parts of it were fun to do but it was very hard work."

Robbins plays a hotshot advertising executive, Nick Beam, who discovers his beautiful wife in *flagrante delicto* with his boss. In a state of shock, he reels out of the house without challenging them, jumps into his car and just drives. As he heads into the wrong part of Los Angeles, he stops at a traffic light and, still in a virtual trance, he hardly notices as a would-be mugger (Martin Lawrence) gets in and shoves a gun in his face.

> ❛I had to concentrate to look normal; the pain was intense❜

"Nick is a man whose world is shattered out of a clear blue sky," Robbins says. "When the mugger threatens him he couldn't care less about his own life because it's just been taken away. And that makes him dangerous, because it means he can turn the tables on the mugger."

What follows is part road movie, part farce as the two fight, grudgingly become allies and then plot to rob the boss who has betrayed Beam.

Making *Nothing to Lose* was not exactly a barrel of laughs. Suffering chronic pain from an old back injury, Robbins had to will himself through an extremely demanding, physical role. "My back has been really bad since I injured myself in 1984 when I did an acrobatic move on stage and fell," he says. "It 'goes out' on occasion, and while I was making the movie it was 'out' about 80 per cent of the time. I had to really concentrate to look normal; the pain was intense."

By the time filming had finished, a little over a year ago, Robbins was exhausted. He headed for the New York home he shares with Sarandon and their sons, Jack and Miles.

"I needed to re-evaluate and readjust my life. I needed to quit smoking, which I did, I healed my back problem, I got in better physical shape. I just felt it was all going too fast, I needed to put things on hold for a while and see what I had around me. My children were the main thrust of that. I kept saying to myself: 'You don't need to work, so why are you? Why not spend some time picking the kids up from school and just be there for them?' It's important for me to spend time with my kids. You find yourself working later and later and there comes a time when you just want to stop for a while."

During his break he did allow himself time to write a script, provisionally titled *The Cradle Will Rock*, which he intends to direct next year. Robbins is approaching the project with a mixture of excitement and extreme trepidation. "It's set in 1930s New York and has about five stories interwoven like a kind of tapestry, three of them true and two I've invented. All the stories have something to do with freedom of expression and the heroism of the individual."

The acclaim that *Dead Man Walking* brought meant very little, he says, when it came to financing the new project. In addition, the pressure of making a film in the way that he wants to remains intense and fraught with difficulties, despite his track record. "There is always a test of wills, always a point where you have to face down the devil and say: 'Do I want to make this movie, because no one is making it easy?'

"It's never easy, no matter who you are. Even Martin Scorsese has trouble putting his films together. There is always someone who will find a way to humiliate you or make you work for less or question your motives or find some fault with your movie or say: 'There's no commerciality in this project . . .'

"You have to realise that doing what you love to do involves a certain amount of challenge and a lot of obstacles that will be placed in your path. That's good in a way, I suppose, because it means you have to examine yourself and the project and see whether you really want to go through with it. I try to keep a sense of humour about it, I really do."

● Nothing to Lose *is released next week*

Carrey calms down and looks up

NEW ON VIDEO

■ LIAR LIAR
CIC, 12, 1997

THOSE averse to Jim Carrey's face-pulling get some welcome relief with this latest reheating of an old chestnut: the plight of the man forced to tell the absolute truth for 24 hours. Carrey plays a fast-talking attorney and habitual liar whose big mouth becomes his undoing. The old contortions remain, but the humour is gentler and more sustained. A rental release.

■ ANACONDA
Columbia TriStar, 15, 1997

IT IS hard to quake with fear at the sight of a huge, rubbery animatronic snake that sucks the life from most of the cast but leaves Jon Voight free to snarl, flash his evil eyes and chew the Brazilian rainforest. This is a B-movie writ large, which assumes that bursts of special effects will hide an impossible, antique script. They do not. Still, as bad movies go, this one is quite enjoyable. The cast, also including Jennifer Lopez, Ice Cube and Jonathan Hyde, fight their clichés with vim, and director Luis Llosa earns points for bare cheek by mounting a point-of-view shot from inside the snake's throat. Available to rent.

■ KILLER: A JOURNAL OF MURDER
First Independent, 18, 1996

THE title suggests perverse titillation. In fact, Tim Metcalfe's film, based on a true story, is a serious and absorbing drama about the unlikely relationship between a conscientious prison guard and an unrepentant killer keen to embrace the hangman's noose. Robert Sean Leonard is the guard in Leavenworth in 1929 who comes face to face with the loathsome Carl Panzram, played to perfection by James Woods. Available to rent.

■ LE MEPRIS
Connoisseur, 15, 1963

ONE of the more orthodox works from the trouble-maker of the French New Wave. It has a story, derived from an Alberto Moravia novel. It has stars: Brigitte Bardot, Jack Palance, Michel Piccoli, plus the revered German director Fritz Lang playing himself, monocle and all. But these attractions do little to obscure the film's personal nature, the stylistic quirks and in-jokes, and the pile-up of philosophical maxims. Godard is reflecting on integrity, cinema, men and women, and doing so with a fierce beauty that still shines strong after 30 years.

Jim Carrey: more gentle than usual in *Liar Liar*

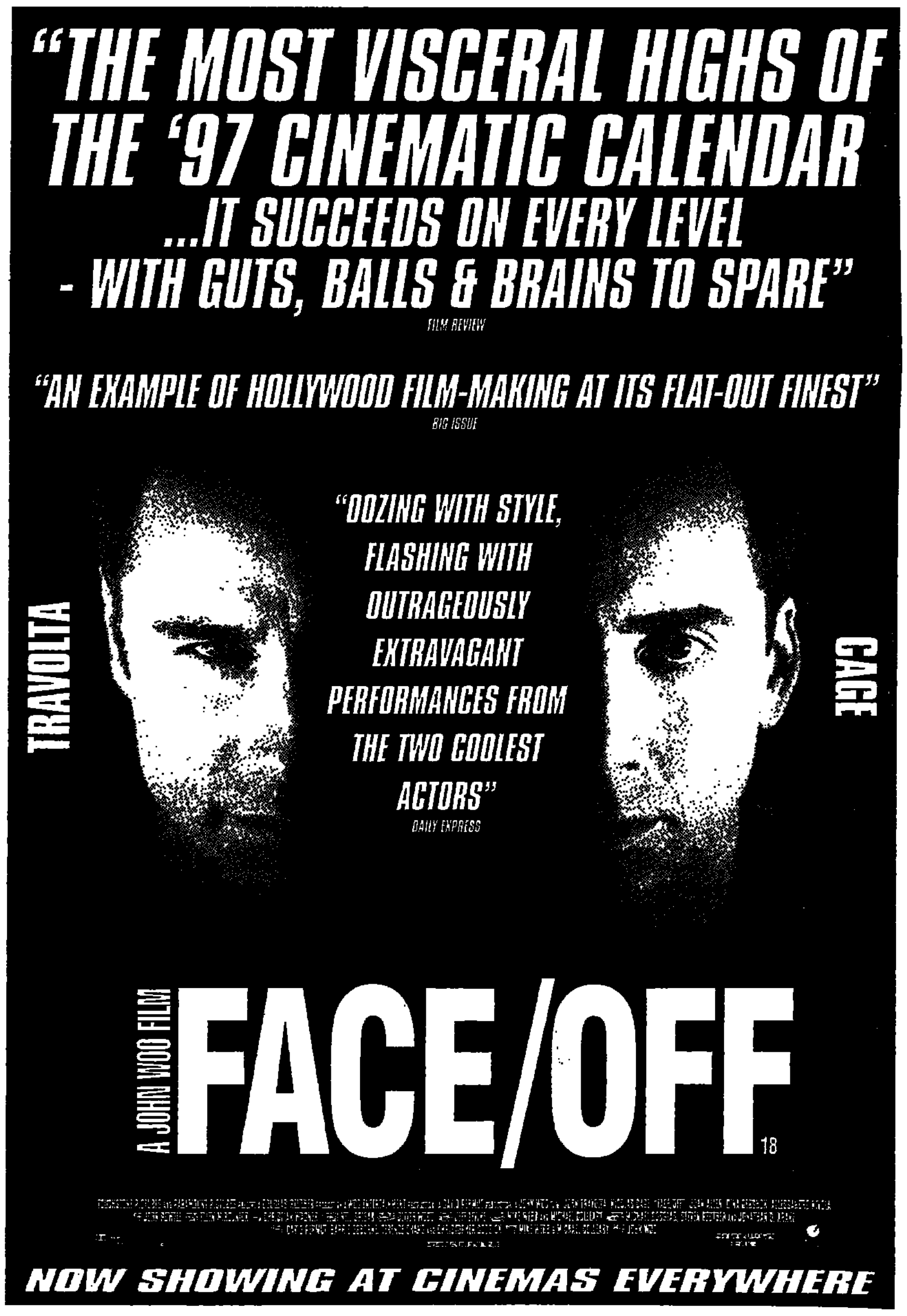
■ WHEN WE WERE KINGS
PolyGram, E, 1996

THIS year's winner of the Documentary Feature Oscar takes us back to 1974, when heavyweight champion George Foreman and his flamboyant challenger Muhammad Ali faced each other in Zaire for a bout billed as the "rumble in the jungle". Leon Gast's joyous film, in the works for 22 years, recreates the contest through expertly juggled archive footage and interviews with the likes of Spike Lee and Norman Mailer. If you fear films about boxing, be pacified: this is really about humanity triumphant.

■ THE UMBRELLAS OF CHERBOURG
Tartan, U, 1964

JACQUES DEMY'S wonderful musical, handsomely restored to its pastel-hued splendour, tells of intimate, ordinary things: a lover absent in the Algerian War, a pregnancy, a lukewarm marriage. Every word is set to Michel Legrand's lilting pop music; every colour is carefully co-ordinated. But the artifice is never stifling, and enough specks of vinegar are sprinkled about to stop things curdling into mush. Catherine Deneuve, all of 19 at the time, is lovely to behold; so is the entire film.

GEOFF BROWN



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BRAHMS CENTENARY: The Royal College of Music Chorus and Orchestra under Sir David Willcocks performs two works by the German composer who died one hundred years ago this year. On the programme is the *Tragic Overture* and *Ein deutsches Requiem*, which uses texts from Luther's translation of the Bible. Chorus director is Bob Chilcott.
Royal College of Music, Prince Consort Road, SW7 (0171-589 3643). Tonight, 7.30pm

CARAVAN: A tangle of relationships tests the female solidarity of a family of three women holidaying in North Wales. First London production for a play by former Brookside actress Helen Blakeman. Gemma Bodinetz's cast includes Elizabeth Estensen, Emma Cunliffe and Pip Donaghy.
Bush, Shepherds Bush Green, W12 (0181-743 3388). Previews tonight, 8pm. Opens tomorrow, 7pm. Mon-Sat, 8pm.

SOUTH BANK SELECTION: Veteran Finnish conductor Paavo Berglund takes the podium in a concert by the London Philharmonic Orchestra (Festival Hall, 7.30pm) performing a programme of Bartók, Sibelius and Brahms. At 8pm, in the Purcell Room, the One London Jazz Festival continues with an evening featuring new pieces by the respected teacher and musical innovator Graham Collier, performed by an international line-up led by the composer.
South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242) Ⓢ

UNLUCKY FOR SOME: The final play in a season showcasing the talent of *young British playwrights*. Paul Tucker's dark comedy depicts the angst-ridden lives of a group of inner-city council estate dwellers. Timothy Hughes directs.
Southwark Playhouse, 62 Southwark *Bridge Road, SE1 (0171-620 3494)*. Opens tonight, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. Until December 6.

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hergle

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM: A rare opportunity to see the world's leading exponent of *classic horsemanship, the* **Spanish Riding School of Vienna**, which tour only every four years. The "dancing white stallions" perform four dates here before going on to London.
NEC, Junction 6, M42 (0121-780 4133). Tonight-Sat, 8pm; Sun, 3pm. Ⓢ

EDINBURGH: The **Scottish Chamber Orchestra** under its freshly appointed conductor Joseph Swensen performs an all-Sibelius programme including Six Humoresques for Violin and Orchestra. With violinist Kuoko Takezawa.
Queen's Hall, Clerk Street (0131-668 2019). Tonight, 7.45pm

The SCO plays music by Sibelius in Edinburgh

MOLD: A second pair of plays have their national opening here tonight before entering the repertoire. In the **Emlyn Williams** Theatre (7.45pm), Fiona Buffini directs **Abigail's Party**, Mike Leigh's popular comedy about the aspirations and crises of a modern marriage, while in the **Anthony Hopkins Theatre** *(7.30pm)*, Terry Hands, the new artistic director, chooses **Equus**, Peter Shaffer's drama of mystical obsession and horse-worship for his first production here.
Theatr Clwyd box office (01352 755114) Ⓢ

SOUTHAMPTON: World premiere here of Derek Deane's staging for **English National Ballet** of *The Nutcracker*, set to Tchaikovsky's score. *Joining the company's own principal* dancers for this production are the American ballerina Susan Jaffe, the Basque Lucia Lacarra, who makes her British debut, and the Leicester-born Robert Tewsley, currently principal *dancer at the Stuttgart Ballet*. With designs by Sue Blane.
Mayflower Theatre, Commercial Road (01703 711811). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm; mats today, 2pm and Sat, 2.30pm Ⓢ

LONDON GALLERIES

Barbican: Don McCullin (0171-638 8891) ... **British Museum:** Carter 1900-1939 (0171-323 8525) ... **Design Museum:** A tour of bicycle *design history* (0171-378 6055) ... **Hayward:** The Modern Still Life (0171-928 3144) ... **National**: Hogarth's Marriage A-la-Mode (0171-747 2885) ... **National Portrait**: Sir Henry Raeburn (0171-306 0055) ... **Royal College of Art**: Artists and Anatomy (0171-590 4444) ... **Tate**: Symbolism in Britain 1860-1910 (0171-887 8000)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
◩ **Some seats available**
☐ **Seats at all prices**

☐ ***ANGELS AND DEMONS***: The excellent Besht Tellers present the tale of Adam and his first wife Lilith. Rebecca Wolman directs Simon Thorp and Emma Caler in a production with music in a style where Jewish Klezmer meets jazz.
Tricycle Theatre, Kilburn High Road, NW6 (0171-328 1000). Sun-Thurs, and Sat, 8pm; mats Wed, 2pm and Sun, 4pm. Until November 30 Ⓢ

◩ **ART**: Ron Cook, Nigel Havers and Malcolm Storry in this exceptionally interesting drama about friendship, unspoken resentment and an almost all-white painting.
Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736). Tue-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat and Sun, 5pm

☐ **BIG GIRLS**: One week run for a musical on the art of losing weight: five girls, 13 musical numbers, created by Colin Davis and Christopher Ullcrap.
Wimbledon Studio, The Broadway, SW19 (0181-540 0362). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm

☐ **CHIPS WITH EVERYTHING**: First big London revival for Arnold Wesker's 1962 play about class discontent and unthinking obedience in the armed forces. With Julian Glover and Rupert Penry-Jones. Howard Davies directs.
National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 2.15pm. In rep.

◩ **A DELICATE BALANCE**: Eileen Atkins hauntingly chilling in welcome revival of Albee's play about marriage, parenthood and neighbourliness. Maggie Smith plays the drunk sister.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm. Ⓢ

◩ **FAME**: TV and film spin-off about young hopefuls from the New York School of the Performing Arts.
Victoria Palace, Victoria St, SW1 (0171-834 1317). Mon-Thur, 7.30pm; Fri, 5.30pm and 8pm; Sat, 3pm and 7.30pm. Until Jan 17.

◩ **HENRY V**: Michael Sheen plays the warlike Harry in Ron Daniels's production, not well reviewed in Stratford. Good performance by Kanne Adrover as Katherine.
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Mon-Sat, 7.15pm; mats Thur and Sat, 2pm. Until Nov 22. Then in rep. Ⓢ

◩ ***SCISSOR HAPPY***: Comedy whodunnit where the audience can play detective. Adapted by Neil Mullarkey, Lee Simpson and Jim Sweeney from the US long-runner *Shear Madness*.
Duchess, Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5075). Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 5.30pm and 8.30pm, mat Wed, 2.30pm

☐ **THE SLOW DRAG**: Jazz musical by Carson Kreitzer, loosely based on the story of Billy Tipton, a woman who passed as a man to find work as a jazz musician. With Liza Sadovy, Kim Criswell and Christopher Colquhoun.
Whitehall Theatre, Whitehall, London *SW1* (0171-369 1735). Mon-Thur, 9pm; Fri and Sat, 7pm and 9.30pm.

☐ **TALES MY LOVER TOLD ME**: New musical comedy written and directed by *Chris Burgess, music by Sarah Travis*, about three women in their early middle years struggling to stay friends.
King's Head, Upper St, N1 (0171-226 1916). Tue-Sat, 8pm; mat Sun, 3pm Ⓢ

☐ **TONGUE OF A BIRD**: Beautiful acting but in a wispy play by Ellen McLaughlin about mothers seeking daughters and vice versa.
Almeida Theatre, 108 Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 4404). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; *mat Sat, 3pm. Until November 29* Ⓢ

◩ **WASTE**: Felicity Kendal, Michael Pennington, Denis Quilley in Granville Barker's fascinating drama of the power struggle within a government, *complicated by sex*.
Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (0171-928 7616). Tonight, 7.30pm. In rep.

LONG RUNNERS

☐ **Blood Brothers**: Phoenix (0171-369 1733) ... ☐ **Buddy**: Strand (0171-930 8800) ... ☐ **Grease**: Cambridge (0171-494 5080) ... ◩ **An Inspector Calls**: Garrick (0171-494 5085) ... ☐ **Jesus Christ Superstar**: Lyceum (0171-656 1807) ... ☐ **Miss Saigon**: Drury Lane (0171-494 5400) ... ☐ **The Mousetrap**: St Martin's (0171-836 1443) ... ☐ **Smokey Joe's Cafe**: Prince of Wales (0171-839 5987) ... ☐ **Starlight Express**: Apollo Victoria *(0171-416 6054)* ... ☐ ***The Woman in Black***: Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

◆ **FACE/OFF** (18): FBI agent John Travolta and terrorist Nicolas Cage swap *identities. Outrageous thriller that never* knows when to stop. Director, John Woo.
ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Greenwich** (0181-235 3005) **Odeons: Camden Town** (0181-315 4255) **Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Leicester Square** (0181-315 4215) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **Virgin Chelsea** (0171-352 5096)

THE GAMBLER (15): Intriguing tale about Dostoevsky writing his novel *The Gambler*, with Michael Gambon and Jodhi May. Director, Károly Makk.
Curzon West End (0171-369 1722) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030)

MAXIMUM RISK (18): Jean-Claude Van Damme steps into his twin brother's shoes and finds trouble. Slambang action from Hong Kong director Ringo Lam. With Natasha Henstridge.
Virgin Trocadero Ⓢ (0181-970 6015)

MY MOTHER'S COURAGE (12): A Hungarian mother has a brush with death in Nazi-occupied Budapest. Slight, winsome Euro co-production, with Pauline Collins. Director, Michael Verhoeven.
ABC Panton Street (0171-930 0631)

UP ON THE ROOF (15): Ups, downs and yawns of a student singing group. Thinly likeable British film, with Amy Robbins, Billy Carter, and Clare Cathcart. Director, Simon Moore.
Plaza Ⓢ (0990 888990)

WILL IT SNOW FOR CHRISTMAS? (12): Drudgery and maternal love in rural France. Striking but dour first film from director Sandrine Veysset. With Dominique Reymond.
Chelsea (0171-351 3742) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402)

CURRENT

◆ **AN AMERICAN WEREWOLF IN PARIS** (15): Amusingly cheeky horror comic, with Tom Everett Scott as an American student who falls for the *charms of Julie Delpy's werewolf.*
Odeons: Camden Town (0181-315 4255) **Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **Virgin Trocadero** Ⓢ (0181-970 6015) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **THE FULL MONTY** (15): Unemployed steelworkers strip for cash. Bouncy British comedy, with Robert *Carlyle, Tom Wilkinson, Mark Addy.* Director, Peter Cattaneo.
ABCs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Shaftesbury Avenue** (0171-836 6279) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Mezzanine** Ⓢ (0181-315 4215) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Plaza** Ⓢ *(0990 888990)* ***UCI Whiteleys*** Ⓢ *(0990* 888990) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527)

◆ **L.A. CONFIDENTIAL** (18): Smashing drama about corruption in LA *in the early 1950s, with Kevin Spacey,* Russell Crowe, Kim Basinger, Guy Pearce and Danny DeVito.
Barbican Ⓢ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Notting Hill Coronet** Ⓢ (0171-*727 6705)* **Odeons: Camden Town** (0181-315 4255) **Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Hill** Ⓢ (0171-435 3366) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **A LIFE LESS ORDINARY** (15): Janitor and American heiress finally fall in love. Odd mix of comedy, fantasy and romance from the *Trainspotting* team. With Ewan McGregor and Cameron Diaz. Director, Danny Boyle.
ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) **Barbican** Ⓢ (0171-638 8891) **Greenwich** (0181-235 3005) **Odeons: Camden Town** (0181-315 4255) **Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Plaza** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) ***Screen/Baker Street*** *(0171-935 2772)* **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

Suddenly a worthy annual jamboree has been given international clout. **Hilary Finch** reports

Belfast steps up a league

Edinburgh, Paris, Berlin and London have all been hot on the trail of *Ocean*, the final collaboration between the choreographer Merce Cunningham and the late composer John Cage. But the work, inspired by Joyce and *the theory that his next big* work would have been about the sea, has found it own way across the water. *Ocean* comes home to Ireland when it receives its British Isles premiere at the 1997 Belfast Festival, which opens tomorrow.

Belfast's coup is at the epicentre of the high-level seismic activity that has been rippling through Ulster from the moment that the festival appointed its new programme director, Sean Doran. A quietly spoken Londonderry man — possibly the last thing *Belfast had expected — the 35-year-old Doran has been a* clarinettist, sheep-shearer, founder of the group Innere Klang, *and director of Londonderry's* year-long Impact festival, as well as being in charge of the 1995 UK Year of Literature.

When he landed the key post in Belfast as the festival's first native Northern Irish incumbent, he says that he really had no preconceptions at all, no sense of any fixed direction. "I just wanted to spend lots of time consulting and debating with local arts groups, funding organisations and punters, to create a picture of the political will, the sense of ambition, the nature of the need for change."

For change there had to be. The Belfast Festival at Queen's University had begun 35 years ago as an oasis in a cultural desert, an infusion of creativity into a troubled time, a troubled place. In the past five *years or so it had reached* stasis, a victim of both its own success and of the upsurge of cultural activity year-round in a Province vigorously adjusting to a fragile peace.

NICKY WEBB

Romanians bearing Greek gifts: the National Theatre of Craiova will visit Belfast

As a visual emblem of Belfast's optimism, one has only to look at its skyline: the renovated Grand Opera House, the burgeoning harbour area, the new Waterfront Hall. As well as exploiting these sites, Doran was determined that "the festival could and should spread its wings outside middle-class, university-centred south Belfast to a wider Belfast ownership". *This year the RSC's Beckett Shorts* will be staged at the Tower Street Theatre in East Belfast, and both the old gas works in the Klondyke Building and the Ormeau Baths Gallery will house installations by Hans Peter Kuhn and Bill Viola in an innovatory programme of visual arts.

Doran's determination to refocus the festival's sense of place was just one strand in his strategy document which was immediately endorsed by the University Board. On the strength of his plans the festival found its budget doubled to more than £1 million. *Belfast City Council trebled its* support, and Guinness increased its sponsorship to support three mini-festivals of comedy, folk and jazz.

Then came a £290,000 windfall from the National Lottery through the Arts Council of Northern Ireland. Donnell Deeny, its head, was thrilled to be able to put into action an Arts Council programme unique to Northern Ireland: the Pilot Programme for the Production of New Work. This *allows lottery money to be* spent in the creation of a new work which will constitute a capital asset.

Not only the Merce Cunningham was deemed as such, but also the UK and Ireland premiere of Robert Wilson's Gertrude Stein operetta, *Saints and Singing*; and three new Northern Ireland productions: *Rebellion* from the Dock Ward Theatre Company; Shanakee's *Not a Quiet Night In* and *Hunger* from The Production Company. Other international visitors include the Romanian National Theatre of Craiova, which performs *Phaedra*.

The Northern Ireland premieres of both Mahler's *Resurrection Symphony* and Britten's War Requiem have their own resonances. But Doran's greatest *music coup* is the world premiere double-act of baritone Matthias Goerne and pianist Alfred Brendel in a Waterfront *Hall programme* of Schubert's *Winterreise* and B flat Piano Sonata.

Conscious that the festival has been up till now very much performance-led, Doran has also set in place a substantial literature programme, lively with "pairings" such as E. Annie Proulx with Dermot Healy and Roddy Doyle with Nick Hornby. Opera and children's festivities are areas he is impatient to expand as soon as his post is made full-time.

With the festival already flooded with new happenings, is there no danger that it may lose focus? "I'm aware that its sheer breadth coud be a weakness as well as a strength. But I'm convinced that this is what is proper at the moment. I want to explore more and more avenues of communication throughout our communities — even those which at first *may seem totally alien.* Human communication defuses problems, and each year we must improve on it."

● *The Belfast Festival runs from tomorrow to November 30. Festival office: 01232 667687*

Signs of a long trip

CONCERTS

Yomiuri Nippon SO/Otaka
Barbican

At the end of a three-week trek through Europe, the Yomiuri Nippon Symphony Orchestra rounded off its 35th anniversary tour with a visit to the Barbican. It would be nice to report that the disciplined ensemble playing meant this distinguished band was showing no sign of fatigue, but the way in which it almost sleepwalked through the centrepiece of the concert, Beethoven's Piano Concerto No 3, suggested otherwise.

Coming from a principal conductor, Tadaaki Otaka, whose performances are seldom dull, this account of the Beethoven was surprisingly staid. Something less cautious would have been needed to fire up the soloist, John Lill, whose muscular, old-fashioned playing had emotional depth but also failed to evoke all the tensions and struggles of this music.

In the first movement the orchestra was so soft-grained that the piano sometimes drowned it — an unusual state of affairs — but by the Largo even Lill seemed to be in a trance and the music very nearly stopped. The finale *was also too staid, and the positive,* major-key shift at the end sounded much less startling than it can.

At least the Tokyo-based orchestra's *character came across* better in Takemitsu and Strauss. Like much of Takemitsu's other music, *Twill by Twilight* sounds like a nature-inspired tone poem, conjuring up perhaps the spirituality of a Japanese forest. And although it was written in memory of the American composer Morton Feldman, its sound-world is never that far from Debussy and Sibelius. Otaka shaped an atmospheric performance, founded on well-cushioned string sound and colourful wind solos.

Traditionalist Straussians would have wanted more glow from the strings in *Ein Heldenleben*. Without it, some of the music did sound blunt and dark-toned, but in the end that turned out to be no bad thing: Otaka's unheroic tempos meant that the *monstrous egotism of the work was diluted.* In its place we got a gloomier but no less coherent portrait of the composer.

JOHN ALLISON

Searching Schubert

Holl/Vignoles
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Those who have heard the Dutch bass Robert Holl's *Winterreise* know that a strong stomach and a stronger spirit is needed for the experience. But little could have prepared Sunday's audience for the intensity of Holl's latest *Winter Journey*, which was the bleak apotheosis to Roger Vignoles's revelatory Schubert week on the South Bank.

Vignoles himself was the accompanist. He had spent the afternoon tracking Schubert's Wanderer in songs and instrumental works focusing on the archetypal Romantic figure, and the evening's late song cycle was the natural continuation of the trail. The darkness of Holl's bass register, resonating through the insistent repeated notes and inturning phrases delineated so starkly in Vignoles's piano playing, made this indeed a "road by which no one has ever returned".

Seldom has the heavy footfall of the piano writing in *Der Wegweiser* (The Signpost) pointed back so painfully to the tread of the cycle's opening song. Here was the thud of realisation that *this wanderer had got precisely nowhere*: the numb stasis, the endless circling of his existential journey became stunningly apparent.

There were many such insights to be glimpsed. Some of them came from the artistry with which Holl exploited his deep bass register, particularly where it was cunningly stretched upwards by Schubert to ache painfully through a word such as *elend* (wretched) or *wein* (cry). And many came from the piano's subtext as Vignoles would discover the echo of a dog's howling in the inner voice of the accompaniment, or would all but graze Holl's own voice as the piano rhythm bruised the vocal line.

Holl gives every atom of his being to a Schubert cycle. Even the very first word — here, *Fremd*, meaning a stranger, or one in exile — was flung out of his inmost being as if in pained anger. And this anger drew attention, too, to the number of rhetorical questions in this song cycle. After a series of them, ever more desperate, Holl slowed down to make *Der greise Kopf* (The hoary head) a remarkable central *image* of the cycle as a whole in what will be one of the year's most unforgettable performances.

HILARY FINCH

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All bawd and Bard in the silly season

The Popular Mechanicals
Arts

It is quite an achievement to make the Reduced Shakespeare Company, which specialises in being very silly about the Bard, look like a conclave of OMs or the high table at All Souls, or a conclave of OMs *on* the high table at All Souls; but this curious import from Sydney has brought it off. They tell me that *The Popular Mechanicals* became a cult Down Under. Well, maybe. Think of Barry Humphries's Sir Les Patterson at the age of 12 or so, and you have the piece's natural audience.

Let me not be unkind. Silliness can be sweet, and sometimes is so here. Moreover, why should Tom Stoppard have sole rights to plays about the offstage life of Shakespearean characters? It might be fun to track the witches in *Macbeth* as they gad about Scotland killing swine and avenging themselves on rump-fed ronyons. A day in the life of the Mantuan apothecary would be an interesting challenge for a socially conscious dramatist. There is no reason why (to quote the billing in the programme) Keith Robinson, William Shakespeare and Tony Taylor should not collaborate on a piece about the rude mechanicals as they prepare to put on *Pyramus and Thisbe*.

Flute, Bottom et al assemble in a curious mix of ruffs, pyjama tops and timeless whatnots. They sing a mildly insulting song about theatre audiences and launch into bits of cod Bard. The level of humour is initially signalled by "this apartment hath a pleasant seat", "I fell in love with the willow cabin at the gate". It then proceeds to decline. There are feeble jokes involving the ambiguity of the word "without" and vaguely scatological ones about Bottom's name; an incomprehensible play-within-a-play which ends with Keith Robinson's Quince farting a lot; and a defiantly unfunny comedy turn involving Snout and Snug.

We learn little or nothing about the private lives of these Athenian toilers. Only when authentic snatches of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* intrude, and Simon Walter's Bottom is able to swagger and boast as the Bard wanted, do we get any sense of their individuality.

Myself, I chuckled three times: once, when someone asks why they have to rehearse in a wood instead of "in the local hall where there's a tea-urn"; again when the appearance of the ass Bottom is greeted with a gasp of four-letter horror; yet again, when Cal McCrystal's Thisbe praises the dead Pyramus for having eyes as green as leeks.

But the last line comes from Shakespeare himself, as of course does the Pyramus play itself. As staged by Geoffrey Rush, this comes with a Thisbe so nervous she throws up and slides about in her vomit, and a Wall whose "chink" and "hole" is not between his fingers but between his legs. Sir Les would have loved it, but only when he was very small, very drunk or both.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

MARILYN KINGWILL

Three laughs a minute: the Australian company responsible for *The Popular Mechanicals* drag Shakespeare resolutely downmarket as they put on *Pyramus and Thisbe*

Feeling good and barmy

Dear Brutus
King's Head, N1

James Barrie's once famous play now belongs in the English theatre's attic, along with the dozens of others that rep *theatres regularly did, and that* now not even Radio 4 thinks of giving airtime to. Radio is probably the only medium where the play's thin characterisation and pervading barminess could find, in the listener's imagination, some blood to keep it going.

In the theatre it looks decidedly anaemic, particularly when given in matinee performances that cannot use the full depth of the stage. The stage is never very deep anyway at this brave and currently embattled venue, truly fighting for its very future against the threatened withdrawal of its core funding.

At the same time, in a perverse sort of way, catching up with this weird old piece of feel-good theatre gives some satisfaction, and because Barrie was vampire-like in his knowledge of where to find the emotional artery, bless me if the scene between the father and his might-have-been daughter did not exercise the tear-ducts for a while.

Eight people have been staying in the country with Lob, an odd creature whose sinister smiles would send anyone who wasn't in a play by Barrie back to town by the first available vehicle. In the ridiculous opening scene we soon guess that he is Puck grown old, because one of the guests helpfully tells us that this is exactly what he looks like, and perhaps this is how Ken Parry is playing him, like Humpty Dumpty with lots of teeth.

In the second act almost everyone goes into a magic wood — it is midsummer night — where they enjoy a second chance at life, discovering how they would have fared if other choices had been made. The restless young man unhappily married to A and declaring his love for B now finds that he is married to B and in love with A. And so forth. This is where Mark Eden's unsuccessful painter spends a blissful hour with the teenage daughter he never had, a scene milked by Barrie for every drop of pathos yet honestly played by Eden and the fresh and delightful Nicola Ball.

The cast, and the women in *particular, invest their roles as A, B* and the others with creditable conviction, but I see that Stephanie Sinclair Crawford has adapted the play as well as directing it. Since the three acts are over in one hour 40 minutes, chunks of the play must have been torn out, possibly for very good reason (ie, unspeakable in 1997), but this has made some scenes fearfully cursory. Everyone wastes no time in leaping to the point, but the points they land on are very small.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Angered by a match made in hell

Sive
Palace, Watford

John B. Keane's "Passionate Irish Tale", as the programme puts it, makes me aware that one can respect the staging of a play, as well as admire the quality of its actors and notice good features of the writing, yet take a real dislike to it all.

Written in 1959 and revised for Dublin's Abbey Theatre revival in 1985, Keane tells of a schoolgirl, Sive, illegitimate and orphaned, brought up in rural Ireland by her uncle and aunt. A rich farmer wants to marry her, offers the aunt £200 (with a further £100 to the matchmaker), and the child is *prepared for marriage* to this heavy, puffing, mean, grubby-minded 70-year-old. The scene is set for a desperate barefoot flight across the bog.

Keane's early plays are said to catch Old Ireland on the cusp of turning into Prosperous Ireland, where new notions of personal liberty replace peasant obedience to tradition. Ben Barnes says as much in a programme note, and it is Barnes who began the revival and *re-evaluation* of Keane's work, and who directs this production, transferring to London's Tricycle next month.

I do not agree that the play catches this. It is true that one of the pair of travelling tinkers — the only decent adults in the play — foretells a future when the owners of farming acres will rule the land, but this little speech, which might even be a denunciation, has the feel of being tacked on. Young Sive's refusal to fear the *puca* (ghost) on the dark road hardly convinces as a sign of mental emancipation.

The cusp, so it seems to me, is one that has been crossed by the audience, possibly even the audiences back in 1959, who could no longer accept the propriety (assuming they once did) of mating 17 and 70 in exchange for cash. A sense that the play is pandering to this outrage is *what fuels my dislike for it*. Keane manipulates us. He excludes alternative courses of action by artificially isolating Sive (Catherine Walker) and her family from a community often referred to but playing no part. Schoolfriends, nuns, priest, neighbours — we never hear their observations on the mismatch. Apart from the tinkers we have only the sinister matchmaker (Simon O'Gorman), whose perceptions on love are a brief bright moment, but who limps, and thus is clearly devilish.

Marion O'Dwyer's Mena, the aunt, stamping her way between oven, milk churn and potato sack, is a strong performance of venom, frustration and greed, though the background to the first two of these qualities is never clear. Barnes's direction is brimfull of the telling details of rural living, and is fascinating in this respect, recording a land now departing into memory; but the evening left me angered by the play rather than by the behaviour attacked by it.

JEREMY KINGSTON

MARILYN KINGWILL

Catherine Walker (Sive) and Marion O'Dwyer (Mena)

NEW CLASSICAL CDS: A *Messiah* worth waiting for

CHORAL

Hilary Finch

■ **HANDEL**
Messiah
Gabrieli Consort/McCreesh
Archiv 453 464-2 ★★★ *£29.99*

WHO needs another *Messiah*? Well, we all do if it's anything like this thrilling new recording from Paul McCreesh and his Gabrieli Consort and Players. Victorian sentimentality, period-instrument preciosity and late 20th-century super-cool are all stripped away with a characteristic blowtorch of imagination and daring.

McCreesh's dynamic relationship of recitatives to arias and the sheer energy of verbal inflection and enunciation are, at last and uniquely, in the spirit of that early 18th-century evangelical tradition of Handel's "librettist", the theologically passionate Charles Jennens. And the meticulous articulation of the instrumental playing fuses with the bright rhythmic definition of the chorus to give a performance of deep shadows and of often blinding light.

Even the more daring extremes of ornamentation and tempo convince. The tenor Charles Daniels caresses his *Comfort ye*, only to tear away to exalt every Valley in sight. Bass Neal Davies shakes the Heav'ns and the Earth with a vocal quake of at least ten on the Richter scale; and soprano Susan Gritton's refiner's fire, kindled by the strings, positively scalds. There are sudden moments, too, of isolation in space and time: chasms of rebuke and rejection all the more awe-ful in the context of this fiery and fearless production.

OPERA

John Higgins

■ **MASSENET**
Werther
Von Otter/Upshaw/Hadley/
Lyons Opera Orch/Nagano
Erato 0630 17790-2 (two CDs)
★★★ *£29.99*

MASSENET'S melancholy poet is no longer much in fashion; it is coming up for 20 years since the last complete recording. But Werther remains tailor-made for the tenor Jerry Hadley, who has rarely, if ever, given a more impressive performance on disc.

The plangent upper register glides around Werther's contemplation of quiet domesticity as Charlotte looks after her siblings, and the voice is all honey in the moonlit love music which follows. In Act III Hadley pulls out every stop, plus a few verses from Ossian, as Charlotte has to show him the door. This is singing to put alongside Alfredo Kraus, the greatest Werther of our time and still available on EMI.

Anne Sofie von Otter is in no way outclassed as a neurotic Charlotte, much more at ease looking after the family than in coping with itinerant poets. Dawn Upshaw is luxury casting as little sister Sophie, determinedly merry and bright whatever the emotional storms blowing in the vicinity. Kent Nagano conjures up the latter with fine fury but also paints in skilfully the small town life centred on church, pub and Christmas carols which blocks Werther's romantic dreams. Highly recommended.

ORCHESTRAL

Barry Millington

■ **ZEMLINSKY**
Symphony in D Minor, Waldgespräch, Fruhlingsbegräbnis, Maiblumen blühten überall
Mathis/Hermann/North German RSO/Beaumont
Capriccio 10 740 ★★ *£14.49*

TEACHER and brother-in-law of Schoenberg though he was, Alexander Zemlinsky never abandoned the voluptuous tonal style they shared at the turn of the century. That style is back in favour today, and gradually Zemlinsky's works are getting the recognition they deserve.

The Symphony in D Minor is a student work, but a very accomplished one. The influence of Brahms is never far away, though Bruckner and Mahler also come to mind in the solemn Adagio, while the Scherzo is an engagingly extrovert romp. Occasional touches of gaucherie — possibly exacerbated by a performance more notable for its vigour than its refinement — are amply compensated by the freshness of invention.

The conductor, Antony Beaumont, has edited both the Symphony (the last movement was lost until recently) and the orchestral arrangement of *Maiblumen blühten überall*. The latter is a setting for string sextet of a poem by Richard Dehmel — rather like Schoenberg's *Verklärte Nacht*, in fact, to which it bears a flattering resemblance.

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Big Sur rendered

JAZZ

Charles Lloyd Quartet
Festival Hall

ANYONE unaware of saxophonist Charles Lloyd's extended 1970s sojourn at Big Sur, where he would play his flute in the woods, watch the waves and meditate, might have guessed at it courtesy of clues both sartorial — he took the stage in loose-fitting black clothes and Nehru cap — and musical: his is one of the most contemplative, rapturous tenor sounds since John Coltrane. He is also entirely silent on the stand — no band-member introductions, no assurances that he is delighted to be in London — letting his music speak for him.

Such seriousness bordering on asceticism, such concentration on the essentials of music-making, render Lloyd a natural for his current record company, ECM, and the quality of the five albums he has made for the label since his much-vaunted comeback in the late 1980s suggests that he has found a sympathetic artistic environment in the company's Rainbow Studio in Oslo.

The crucial element in his current Indian summer, however, is — appropriately enough for a man instrumental in furthering the careers of Keith Jarrett and Michel Petrucciani — the Swedish pianist Bobo Stenson.

It would be an oversimplification to dub the lyrical, elegant Stenson the McCoy Tyner to Lloyd's Coltrane, but there were moments during the more rhapsodic pieces played by Lloyd's quartet when Tyner, waiting backstage to perform his half of the concert, might have been forgiven a frisson of nostalgia. The earnest, questing tenor tone and the almost telepathic interplay with the rhythm section (bassist Jeff Littleton and drummer Billy Hart) did bring the classic Coltrane quartet to mind, as did Lloyd's employment of an Eastern element — a Tibetan oboe — for the band's closing piece.

As he often points out, however, many of Lloyd's first musical experiences were with the blues bands of such figures as Howlin' Wolf, B. B. King and Bobby Bland, so it was no surprise to find his quartet quietly exploring the 12-bar form, fronted initially by Lloyd's warbling tenor, and subsequently by his surprisingly breathy flute. Even in blues mode, though, instead of returning to his Memphis roots, Lloyd stayed firmly — and triumphantly — on the beach at Big Sur.

CHRIS PARKER

Vested interest

POP

Echobelly
UEA, Norwich

THE fates have not been kind to Echobelly. In 1994, reviews of their debut album bracketed them with those other promising debutants, Oasis. But since their second record, a year later, there have been expensive court cases, a change of record company and apparently acrimonious splits. It is only this week that they have broken their silence with the release of *Lustra*.

It is perhaps not surprising that the accompanying tour has an air of determined defiance about it. As the show begins, an ominous throbbing issues from the darkened stage. Then, as piercing shafts of light rake across the audience, the band emerge like aliens in *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, visitors from the planet Britpop. Standing in the centre, dressed ready for battle in white vest and combat trousers, is singer Sonya Aurora Madan.

Resembling a dark-skinned cross between Lulu and Audrey Hepburn, Madan is the focus of everyone's attention, the recipient of endless declarations of love from her fans. The rest of the band fade anonymously into the background, apart, that is, from Madan's co-writer, guitarist Glenn Johansson, who, bent almost double, sets the pace and decorates the tunes.

In keeping with the defiant spirit, the bulk of the set is taken from the new album. The unfamiliarity of the tunes does Echobelly no favours, especially when — as with *Bulldog Baby* — Madan's voice struggles against a barrage of noise. And it is noticeable that the recent songs lack the bounce and bite of the older ones.

There are exceptions, of course. *I'm No Saint* is a fine anthem, and *Bleed*, performed by Madan and Johansson alone, evokes an elegant sense of pained regret. But the two singles *The World Is Flat* and *Here Comes The Big Rush* seem pallid when played against the wonderful *Insomniac* from 1994. Madan's voice squeaks and swoops through the chorus, recapturing a sense of exhilaration and playfulness that seems to have been lost.

What has not been mislaid, however, is Madan's charismatic presence. She may say little and move less, but as she points and gestures in mock mime, as her arms carve patterns in the air and as light catches the glitter on her face, it is hard to look away.

JOHN STREET

Folies bergères

OPERA

La fedeltà premiata
Guildhall School

FIDELITY REWARDED is one of Haydn's best comic operas. The goddess Diana demands the annual sacrifice of a pair of faithful lovers to the local monster, so the shepherds and shepherdesses must ensure that no one suspects them of fidelity. The seeds of Offenbach, of Gilbertian topsy-turvydom, were there in the 18th century.

Jamie Hayes's production for the GSMD does the piece no great harm by setting the action amid the Edwardian hunting set; many of the jokes may arise from anachronisms, but so they doubtless did at Esterháza in 1781, and since Haydn was in the business of purveying country-house opera, there is no point in getting stuffy about purity of comic style. But his strait-laced sporting Bishop could not quite match the entrancingly corrupt High Priest of the original, crisply and pointedly though the baritone Mark Stone sang the role.

And since he tended to write instrumentally rather than vocally for his soloists, Haydn isn't easy to sing — or play, for that matter. The simpler music looks on the page, the trickier it is to articulate, and Clive Timms's account of the score was notable for spirit rather than finesse, though the spirit in the two near-Mozartian finales was truly infectious. And the bewilderingly international cast made a good fist of the singing while projecting Timms's new English version in purest translatorese with appropriate, if rash, fidelity.

The Malaysian tenor David Quah fielded sweet tone and admirable security as the most faithful of the shepherds, and the Australian Natalie Christie was equally secure and showed an innate sense of comedy as the scattiest shepherdess. Finnur Bjarnason, from Iceland, was the amorous Count Perrucchetto, a good light baritone but not altogether sure where he was, and Gillian McIlwraith bravely fought laryngitis as the double-monikered heroine, giving great promise not least with her elegant presence. Catherine Hegarty (from Co Clare) sounded like a Sieglinde in embryo in Diana's few lines, while Caroline Childe (Amaranta) and the Catalan Salvador Parron i Conus (Lindoro) worked hard at roles still a bit beyond them.

All in all, good, undemanding fun.

RODNEY MILNES

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Jewel prised from Crown

From vice to viceroys: **Jan Morris** relishes an unbiased history of the British in India

MARY EVANS

High days of the Raj: a painting by Captain E. R. Penrose from *The Graphic* shows a Bombay Staff Corps officer relaxing at home, 1888

This is a wonderful book about the British presence in India, first to last. My guess is that, like the same author's *Rise and Fall of the British Empire* — just as good — it will remain unsurpassed in our generation as a scholarly survey for the educated general reader.

One can make such claims now, because 50 years after the withdrawal from India, which was in essence the end of the Empire itself, the facts are clear, the emotions have waned and mature judgments can be reached. In the past few years we have had several definitive accounts of particular imperial aspects or activists: James has chosen to go for the big picture, the grand sweep, and *Raj* is a superb example of modern narrative history at its bravest.

Brave, because it shirks no issue, pulls no punches and is not frightened by statistics, those fearful instruments of ennui. To call it popular history would demean it, for it is supported by full academic equipment, and has entailed much original research, especially in recently released official documents: but it is rich too in asides and allusions and has all the hallmarks of wide and liberal reading — I noted literary references from Fielding to Larkin, Surtees to Gogol, *Alice in Wonderland* to *Toad of Toad Hall*.

I will give away its ending. For better or for worse, James says, the British Raj shaped the Indian sub-continent as it is today — "and on the whole I think it was for the better". The whole long book leads up to that conclusion, but not without innumerable doubts, backslidings and contradictions. It is a terrific story that it tells, by any standards, but is liable to bring out the worst in its readers — for who can fail to cherish some sneaking sympathy for the miscellaneous rascals, opportunists and adventurers who went out to India not for any improving purposes, but for the cash and the fun of it?

James is by no means dismissive of them either, and the happiest part of his book is really the first, describing the amoral series of enterprises by which the East India Company established British supremacy. Actually these were, it seems, largely French both in system and in style — it was Dupleix who first aimed at political domination through financial exploitation, and who originally learnt to make the most of Indian collaborators. It is hard to argue a case for the avaricious fighting nabobs, but as figures of historical curiosity they are a delight to read about — private-enterprise imperialists, James calls them, and they have some of the undeniable allure of the buccaneers.

This is not, though, what the British Raj was really about. The Raj began when the Company left, having developed into a kind of enormous quango — and mid-Victorian England brought its evangelical values to the government of the infinitely varied multitude of different races, religions, regimes and intentions that was 19th-century India. Once the Indian Mutiny was over, and the awful retributions that followed it, the nature of the Empire in India was finally settled, and was to remain in fundamentals unchanged to the end. James calls it a "system whose ends were virtuous but beset by vices", but sums it up as "fundamentally good-natured".

He assesses the virtues and the vices with an absolute lack of bias. There is no trace of the politically correct to this book. The arrogance, the condescension, the racism, ostentation, the unremitting dogmatism (even in 1846 the major Christian missionary societies had a budget of £425,000) — all are deplored indeed, with horrid examples, but properly set against their background. Even Dyer of Amritsar is not condemned out of hand, and when in 1946 soldiers under British command perpetrated another, smaller massacre, James allows that it saved many innocent lives. Mountbatten gets little sympathy from this remembrance — "he had reverted to that combination of dissembling and coercion which had prevailed in the time of Clive"; on the other hand, Wavell is rehabilitated as "probably India's most underestimated Viceroy".

RAJ
The Making and
Unmaking of
British India
By Lawrence James
Little, Brown, £25
ISBN 0 316 64072 7

Certainly what emerges most forcibly from the tale is the simply appalling mess from which the last few Viceroys tried to extricate the Raj. It is hard to imagine a more terrible fief than India in the 1940s. The Japanese were at the gates, the Germans might well be sweeping in from the West, Muslims and Hindus were already at each others' throats, Gandhi had instigated his Quit India movement, there were thousands upon thousands of political prisoners, fearful famine ravaged Bengal, nationalist agitators of many kinds were active all over the place, the Indian Navy mutinied, imperial prestige was fatally damaged by the surrender of Singapore, the Indian Civil Service was losing morale, the British soldiers in India only wanted to go home, poor Wavell himself thought the task beyond him and Mountbatten brazened it out with methods so devious that, as Field-Marshal Lord Templer said, if he swallowed a nail he would shit a horseshoe.

It all ended, of course, in tragedy leavened with triumph. Hundreds of thousands of Indians and Pakistanis lost their lives in the partition of India, but miraculously history was to save much of what the later imperialists liked to see as the purposes of the Raj — standards of government, codes of law, economic systems, ideas of fairness and tolerance. It is all too easy to sentimentalise the heritage of the British in India, which as recent events have shown generally means more to the British than to the Indians, but Lawrence James never does that. He tells the story straight, and he hopes (so he says at the end) that it will "make both Britons and Indians look again at their common past without shame or recrimination". It is a noble intention, nobly executed.

Jan Morris's latest book, Fifty Years of Europe: An Album *is published by Viking, priced £20.*

After all, they told you so

Derwent May

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THE OXFORD
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LITERARY
QUOTATIONS
Edited by Peter Kemp
Oxford, £17.99
ISBN 0 19 860056 9

ONCE upon a time people used to like garnishing their conversation or their writings with literary quotations, showing that they had a well-stocked mind. Nowadays most people are more uneasy about doing it, not only because it smacks of showing-off, but also because it raises the suspicion that one has simply looked up a dictionary of quotations. When I use a quotation in something I write, I always have the uncomfortable feeling that somewhere it has a little oval label on it like an apple, showing where it came from.

Nevertheless, Oxford University Press has just brought out two new dictionaries of quotations and both of them are very enjoyable and useful. The dictionary of "phrase, saying and quotation" is a new concept. It is arranged under topics such as "kissing" or "knowledge", but under "kissing" it gives not only Browning's chilling "What of soul was left, I wonder, when the kissing had to stop?", and Chico Marx's "I wasn't kissing her, I was just whispering in her mouth" when caught by his wife with a chorus girl, but also the saying "When the gorse is out of bloom, kissing's out of fashion". (Gorse, of course, flowers all the year round.)

The inclusion of these phrases and sayings is what gives the book its special character. "Sent to Coventry", for instance, appears to date from a reference in Clarendon's *History of the Revolution* to Puritans killing some Royalist prisoners and sending others to Coventry.

The quotations, on the other hand, are in many cases not quite quotations, if we mean by that memorable remarks that knock around in people's heads, without them always quite knowing where they come from. This dictionary also tries, so to speak, to create quotations, by including remarks that might be worth remembering but that few people remember yet. The press has even got an "Oxford Quotations Reading Programme" which monitors books and the media and hunts out "new quotations". It seems rather like forging bank-notes, but it must be said they have come up with some good ones, such as Woody Allen's "I recently turned 60. Practically a third of my life is over", or A. J. Ayer's "Why should you mind being wrong if someone can show you that you are?"

The other new dictionary, of "literary quotations", is even more of an anthology of good remarks than a dictionary proper, because few people will have heard of most of the entries and will therefore not be looking them up. However, it, too, is an enterprising and very readable book.

IN THE first section we find Graham Greene wondering, in a letter to his brother Hugh, "Is this fame?", when he learns that a "a new shade for knickers and nightdresses has been named *Brighton Rock*".

The second section, which consists of comments on writers by other writers, will probably be most read, since most of the comments are so bitchy. Coleridge is about the only one whom no one can say a word against. Both of these dictionaries include F. R. Leavis's terse observation on the main characteristic of T. S. Eliot's poetry: "Self-contempt, well-grounded." But there are also plenty of looser remarks in both books, expressive of the personality of the speaker or writer (such as Zsa Zsa Gabor's "I never hated a man enough to give him his diamonds back") but not intrinsically remarkable. That is what distinguishes these books from the regular Oxford or Penguin quotation dictionaries, where you are overwhelmed by the brilliance of the entries.

However, on this point we can adduce another "new quotation", from James Fenton: "Windbags can be right. Aphorists can be wrong. It is a tough world."

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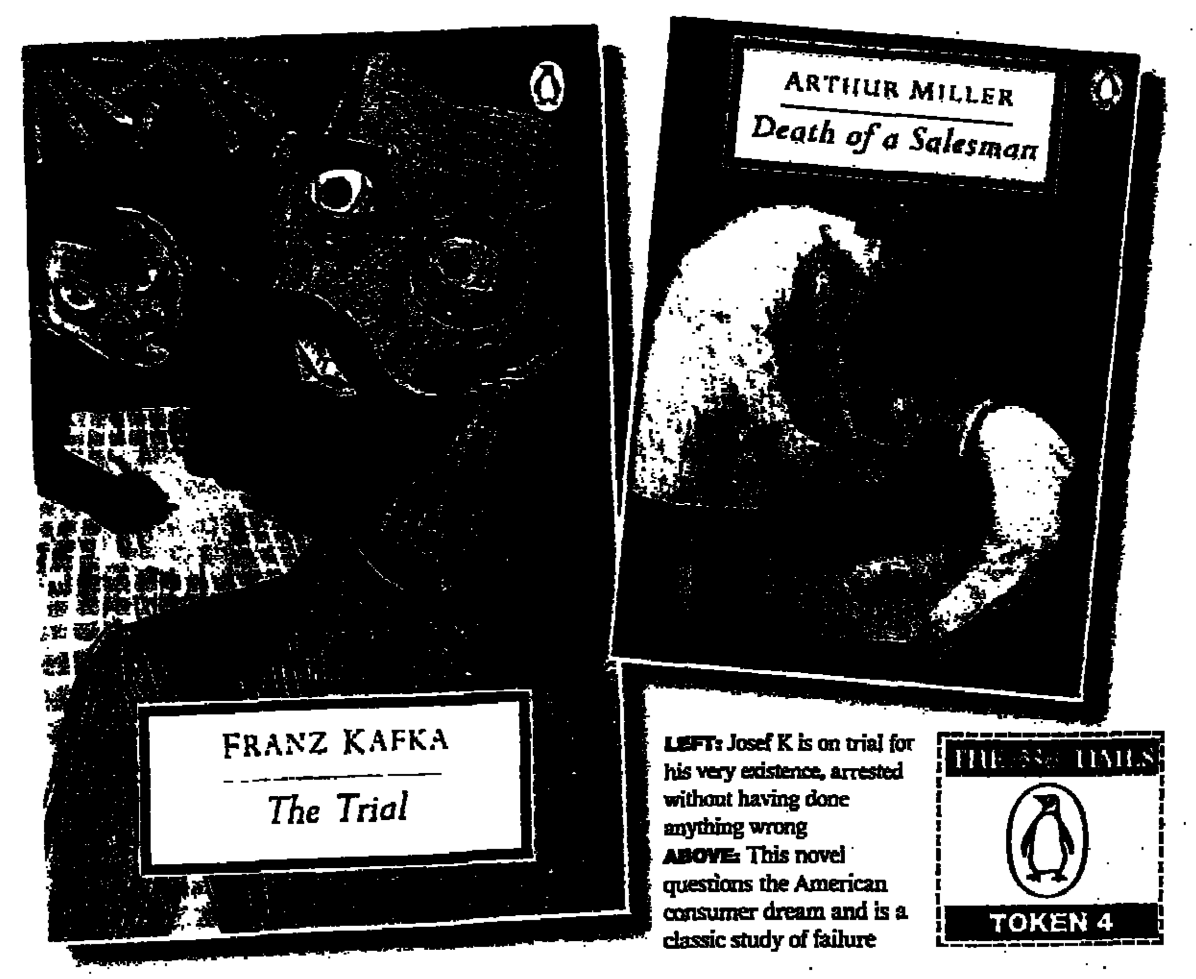

LEFT: Josef K is on trial for his very existence, arrested without having done anything wrong
ABOVE: This novel questions the American consumer dream and is a classic study of failure

THE TIMES
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CHANGING TIMES

Heroism and heartbreak

R. W. Johnson on the problem that Mandela could not solve

AP

The Mandelas a day after his release from prison in 1990

Martin Meredith's biography of Nelson Mandela is, oddly, the first satisfactory full-length study of one of the icons of our age. It is also considerably better than the syrupy hagiography into which too many portraits of Mandela sink. Meredith is, for example, fairly tough about Mandela's failures as a working President — the often autocratic style, the covering up of corrupt colleagues, the preference for party loyalty over accountability and open government: it was absurd to imagine one could pluck the man from jail and that he would learn the craft of government in his late 70s. At the end of the day, of course, any verdict on Mandela has to be massively positive simply because he rose so majestically to the two great moral challenges of his life — he showed unrelenting courage in the face of 28 years in jail and then he chose national reconciliation rather than revenge when he finally emerged from his ordeal. The moral strength of those decisions has often occluded a proper picture of the man in the round, a failing which Meredith, in his lengthy study, has striven to avoid.

NELSON MANDELA
A Biography
By Martin Meredith
Hamish Hamilton, £20
ISBN 0 241 13628 8

KATIZA'S JOURNEY
Beneath the surface of
South Africa's Shame
By Fred Bridgeland
Hamish Hamilton, £16.99
ISBN 0 333 72737 1

The story of Mandela is, inevitably, the story of the ANC and although Meredith's research has been commendable throughout, it is also here that his account is vulnerable for he has relied almost exclusively on interviews with white communists so that the gloss on the story — which has become very much the conventional wisdom — is accepted rather too easily. Thus the account of how the ANC's Freedom Charter was drawn up in 1955 takes seriously the notion that it was laboriously put together by sifting all the thousands of submissions made by groups all over the country when actually many of the groups were merely fronts, invented by the party for the purpose. Ultimately the party simply drew the charter up and pushed it through without even the ANC leader, Albert Luthuli, having had sight of it.

Even more striking is that the question of how Mandela actually became the ANC leader is delicately glossed over. The truth would appear to be that the Communist Party decided to push the moderate Luthuli aside and use the turn towards armed struggle as a sort of internal coup within which to push Mandela forward as his de facto replacement. This in turn raises the murky question of Mandela's exact relationship to the party, a subject not best dealt with simply quoting court statements at the time. All one can say is that within the party at the time, Mandela was always cast as "one of ours" and that the party was then disappointed when he drifted from it again. The fact is that Meredith's interlocutors had many delicate silences to observe about this period and Meredith does not seem to have penetrated beyond a fairly surface level.

The saddest, indeed most heartrending part of Mandela's saga is the way he strolled from jail into the sunlight holding hands with Winnie, knowing full well there was much wrong about her, but determined to smooth things over and bring her back within the realm of civility. Even when she went on trial he defended her — but was then, by a hundred indefeasible incidents, forced to admit she was a monster. "Ever since I came back from jail," he told the divorce court, "not once has she ever entered the bedroom whilst I was awake. I was the loneliest man during the period I stayed with her."

Fred Bridgeland's book attempts to bring the Winnie saga up to date, which is shorthand for saying that he lays forth the evidence, suggesting her involvement in eight murders and the way in which her notoriety has consistently caused the authorities of every kind — not just the ANC but the police and the courts, both under apartheid and now — to balk at the thought of sending her to jail.

Most attention inevitably centres on the murder of 14-year-old Stompie Moeketsi but the fact is, as anyone who traces even the public record of Winnie's career has to be aware, by the time she was a teenager she had a reputation for beating up other children and that other allegations of her having administered savage beatings to children have pursued her down the years. Probably the whole idea of sending her to jail is wrong: she is obviously a deeply disturbed woman who should be compulsorily receiving treatment.

Bridgeland's book is essential reading. But it has deeply discomfited the South African press which, nervously watching Winnie's bid for the ANC deputy presidency, has decided that it would be better to draw a veil over the whole matter. Bridgeland is accordingly reviled for being "right-wing", for having described the house that Winnie lived in as having a tiled roof when actually it had a tin roof and other such irrelevancies.

Nobody wants to discuss or take on board the damning and well-supported case he makes. In her words, the South African media have now joined the judges, the police and the ANC in a continuing Winnie cover-up, hoping that they too can thus move things over. This is not merely a disgrace: with Winnie, as the President can tell them, it simply never works.

هكذا من الأصل

In consulting rooms from Imperial Rome to Harley Street, physicians have remained the same breed, **Thomas Stuttaford** finds

Reader, heal thyself

THE GREATEST
BENEFIT TO
MANKIND
A Medical History
By Roy Porter
HarperCollins, £24.99
ISBN 0 00 215173 1

Christmas usually means little, in commercial terms, to the publishers of medical textbooks, but it cannot be chance that *The Greatest Benefit to Mankind, A Medical History* by Professor Roy Porter has been released in time for the Christmas market. It has popular appeal, for although its 830 pages cover medicine from gallstones in Ancient Egypt to Aids, BSE and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in late 20th-century Britain, it is not written in a pedantic, heavy style. Its natural habitat is not beside *The Oxford Textbook of Medicine, Gray's Anatomy* and *Martindale's Pharmacopaeia,* essential reference books on every doctor's shelf. Rather it is a bedside book which can be guaranteed to interest, educate and soothe the most disturbed insomniac.

The book is amusingly and in some places even racily written. Porter's role as a commentator has not detracted from historical detail, as the anecdotal style with which he describes the *intricacies of* medical practice, throughout the ages makes it blend seamlessly with his analyses of social conditions.

Although doctors and patients who have lived and worked through the medical revolution of the post-antibiotic era, and all the other changes of the past 50 years, may find this book particularly fascinating, it also makes interesting reading *to* those who have no previous specialised knowledge in either history or medicine. *The Greatest Benefit to Mankind* is as much a gigantic essay on medicine as it is a textbook and is particularly effective in revealing the changes in medicine over the past 150 years, together with the social and political changes which first prompted them.

"Early modern times brought Harvey's and other brilliant breakthroughs in anatomy and physiology, but achievements proved more impressive on paper than in bedside practice. The war against death stalled, and to make matters worse, epidemics rained down on Europe in the decades around 1700 and mortality rates soared." Porter dissects the medical approach to the disasters which have afflicted humanity, frequently finding the power of doctors wanting, and describes the effect which this lack has had on the pattern of the diseases and its victims.

Readers will find enough detail to make them glad that they live in a time where there are anaesthetics, surgical *teams and a sophisticated* pharmaceutical industry, but the descriptions are not so gory that the insomniac who seeks relief within its covers *will later fear to turn out the* lights.

Ancient medical history is a somewhat esoteric subject, but armed with Porter's insight it soon becomes obvious that neither doctors nor patients have changed very much over the past 2,000 years. Galen, for instance, comes alive when we read: "... an expert in one-upmanship, Galen couched an inflated sense of self-importance in terms of the dignity of medicine, scolding colleagues as dimwits." *In this sentence* Porter portrays some of the characteristics of the smart, social but competent doctor down the ages, whether practising in Harley Street or Imperial Rome. Although Por*ter admires Galen's expertise* in philosophy, anatomy and as a clinician — Galen was the first to bring to light psychosomatic diseases — he is not *blind to his human faults.*

Those who did Classics at school learnt about "the humours", but not in *such intriguing, human detail.* They did not tell us, for instance, that it was thought that if women were anorgasmic, their humours would be *hopelessly muddled*, a *belief* which accounted for the absence of a puritanical approach to medicine for centuries. The medical textbook of Pope John XXI, for instance, includes prescriptions to encourage fertility, as well as aphrodisiacs and contraceptives.

Porter *is particularly stimu*lating when writing on the history of mental disease. The treatment of mental patients, apart from those who were cared for by the Church in the Middle Ages, was part of general medicine until a hundred years ago. Porter describes the evolution of psychiatry after that date, its interaction with social condi*tions and the attitudes of the* time.

Thirty years ago it was hoped, to quote the eminent British psychiatrist Dr Wil*liam Sargant (1907-88), that* with the advent of the new psychotropic drugs there would be "a release from the shadowland of the asylum and *the folly of Freudianism*". Drugs, Dr Sargant said, would enable doctors "to cut the cackle" and, he predicted, would have eliminated the *problems of mental illness by* the 1990s. The mental hospitals have been emptied, the psychotropic drugs are still improving, the fashion for psychoanalysis is waning, *but* the problem of mental illness has yet to be eliminated.

Whether you are interested in the advent of the stethoscope, opposed, like *most* advances, by much of the medical hierarchy of the time, the history of yellow fever, the bubonic plague or, closer to home, coronary heart disease, the feminist influence on medicine, drug abuse, childbearing or cancer, this book provides the historic background to *these and other medical* questions.

The essential background of medicine never changes. There have always been people who can do nothing without consulting their physicians, like the "*effete Greeks*", whereas others are like the Romans, wary of doctors and scornful of luxury as exemplified by the fashionable Greek *physician. Cicero said:* "... *It* is our duty, my young friends, to resist old age ... to adopt a regime of health; to practise moderate exercise and to take *just enough food and drink to* restore our strength and not to overburden it."

Porter echoes Cicero: "Longevity means more time for *illness and implies that great*er effort and resources will need to be devoted to keeping well." Those who want to take Porter's advice should turn to the chapter on cardiology, and thereafter stop smoking and should start to eat wisely, lose weight and, as Cicero advised, take moderate exercise.

The Greatest Benefit to Mankind is a first-class introduction to medical history. Like a well constructed broadsheet leader, it excites thought and discussion, as well as providing many answers.

Early radiotherapy: from *Medicine: A History of Healing*, edited by Roy Porter, Michael O'Mara, £25

A brutal experiment

Nicholas Bethell
charts Russia's
long descent
into nightmare

A HISTORY OF
20TH-CENTURY RUSSIA
By Robert Service
Allen Lane, £25
ISBN 0 7139 9148 8

This is the story of Russia's great century of suffering. Even at the beginning of it Nicholas II was worse than his two European colleagues, Wilhelm and Franz Joseph, and by the middle of it Lenin and Stalin *had built up maybe the worst error ever to* have been imposed on a country in modern times. Stalin was matched by Hitler in the stakes of evil, but even the raising of the Red Flag over the Reichstag *cannot brighten this unremitting account* of a dismal 97 years, three quarters of which were dominated by communism.

A couple of incidents bring a smile to the reader's lips. A Leninist orchestra found a novel way of espousing the principle of equality: they dismissed their conductor. And Nikolai Bukharin, on holiday in Paris, used to turn cartwheels in the street to impress his new young wife. These are the only two amusing incidents that I could find in a long book.

The rest is nightmare, the familiar story of the brutal Soviet system, with just a few *non-Soviet years on either side. It is put* together with care and at some length, with details of cereal crops on page 163 and sugar beet on page 401. In fact, although this is a valuable work of reference, it reveals little that we do not already know. The facts come from other books, with not very much taken from the newly opened archive of the Soviet period.

While he makes no apology for the Bolsheviks and their revolution that brought about the 74 inglorious years, the author *seems strangely indulgent* towards the man who began it all. He writes that Lenin "never intended a single dictatorial party", that he "would surely have been appalled at" the Great Terror, that he "*would have been horrified*" at it. Then, in a different context, he hints that Lenin had it in mind to exterminate the entire Russian middle class.

"This was not a society capable of being at ease with itself," *he tells us. In 1937-38,* according to a recent Russian reference work, 681,692 Soviet citizens were executed. And this figure applies only to those whose deaths were recorded in an official entry. It does not include *those* who perished in the camps or were murdered without trial.

For instance, no one knows how many "kulaks" died during the forced collectivisation of the countryside. Service suggests a figure of four million. There were others arrested more capriciously: Esperantists and philatelists because they had contact with abroad, ornithologists *because they* used field glasses. "I trust no one, not even myself," Stalin is supposed to have said. "The deaths of the vanquished are necessary for the tranquillity of the victors." He behaved as if that is *what he* believed.

The days of glory and mass murder did begin to fade as the great experiment drew to its close. In the early 1980s, the author guesses, there were only 10,000 political or religious prisoners in the Soviet Union. And the Soviet empire was on the march, across Afghanistan, Ethiopia and Angola and into Central America. The West seemed weak. When Poland resisted, the West did *nothing* to help.

The fortunes of the Cold War changed very suddenly. At midnight on December 31, 1991, the Soviet Union ceased to exist. Another equally worthy, but preferably a *more digestible book, is* needed to explain why the fall happened so quickly.

Lord Bethell's Spies and Other Secrets *was published in 1994 by Viking.*

THE DAVID KING COLLECTION

Vision of a phantom partnership: Lenin and Stalin in Gorki, 1922. It bears every sign of having been faked, like most of the photographs in *The Commissar Vanishes* by David King, Canongate, £25

An author in a state of confusion

Claire Messud

ARKANSAS
By David Leavitt
Little, Brown, £14.99
ISBN 0 316 64163 4

Arkansas, the title of David Leavitt's new book, *is drawn from* the quotation, attributed to Oscar Wilde, which stands as its epigraph: "I should like to flee like a wounded heart into Arkansas." *Flight is the theme* that unites these three novellas.

In the first, Leavitt — stung by the libel case that ensued from his last novel, *While England Sleeps*, a fictionalised rendition of Stephen Spender's life — has turned convention on its head: *The Term Paper Artist* is narrated by a character named "David Leavitt" who, *to all intents* and purposes, resembles the author.

In turmoil over the above-mentioned lawsuit, "Leavitt" has retreated to *his* father's home in Los Angeles, where he purports to be researching a novel. In fact, he fritters away his time driving and cruising, until he meets an undergraduate named Eric Steinberg. Eric is *aiming for* Stanford Business School, but frets about his English grades.

Leavitt proposes a deal: he will write the boy's essay if *Eric, in turn, will allow David* to perform oral sex on him. The exchange is so successful that "simple as that," the narrator informs us, "I became an industry". Leavitt repeats the contract numerous times with numerous boys.

In time called upon to write a paper for a guilty Mormon named Ben, Leavitt outstrips himself — "Congratulate me," he *tells his* agent, "I've just done the best work of my life" — but in so doing, he outstrips Ben, too, whose deception is detected, and who leaves the *university in disgrace.* The tale's cheerful conclusion unfolds in Florence a year later, where "David Leavitt" happens upon Ben, no longer *Mormon, nor heterosexual,* who thanks the author wholeheartedly for his homosexual *initiation.*

This novella, diverting though it is, reads like pure fantasy, a conflation of erotic and literary aspirations. It *insists* upon "David Leavitt's" intellectual brilliance, and allows the character not only a host of encounters with young heterosexual men, but, still more satisfyingly, an avuncular role in Ben's "coming out". Subservience to human truth is not, it would seem, Leavitt's aim here; rather, the piece seems a glib joke.

The Wooden Anniversary and *Saturn Street* are far less cavalier. *The Wooden Anniversary* is also, alas, a work of less conviction. Its female narrator, Lizzie, records the reunion in Italy of herself and two college friends: Nathan, a *gay man from* New York, *and* Celia, whose successful cooking school is the site of their tense gathering. At its centre is a dashing Italian chef named Mauro, with whom Nathan falls in love — to Celia's dismay and despair.

Lizzie exists only as a window onto this triangle; and its culmination, which ought to *devastate, seems contrived* because neither she nor, more crucially, Celia, is brought to sufficient life. Only Nathan truly lives on the page.

Saturn Street is *Arkansas*'s finest achievement. Set, like *The Term Paper Artist*, in Los Angeles, and related, again, by a dislocated author — here named Jerry Roth — it explores his relationship with an Aids patient named Phil Featherstone, to whom Jerry delivers meals.

The novella captures the bland uprootedness of the two *men's* lives, Jerry's *unspoken* desire for his patient, and the jealousy he harbours towards Phil's "buddy", Justin, whom he suspects is really Phil's lover.

The poignancy and peculiarity of lust and of love in the face of terminal illness is conveyed with considerable subtlety; and *Saturn Street* reminds us why David Leavitt — not "David Leavitt" — is an author worth reading.

Spoken out loud

Ian Brunskill

THE READER
By Bernhard Schlink
Phoenix House, £12.99
ISBN 1 861 59063 6

GERMANS of Bernhard Schlink's generation (he was born in 1944) grew up in the shadow of their parents' crimes. *The Reader*, translated by Carol Brown Janeway, is a vivid evocation of their difficult coming-of-age.

The narrator, Michael Berg, is 15 when the story begins. Taken ill in the street one day, he is helped home by a woman passer-by. On his eventual recovery from what turns out to be hepatitis, his mother dispatches him with flowers to thank his rescuer. His first visit to the woman's flat ends with him running away. His second ends with the two of *them in bed.*

The woman is 36, a tramconductor called Hanna. The relationship that develops between her and the boy soon *acquires a routine. He reads to* her from Homer, Lessing, Schiller, *War and Peace*; they shower; they go to bed. The idyll ends, Michael believes, when he fails to acknowledge her one day in the presence of *his schoolfriends* and, *over*night, she disappears.

It is several years before he encounters her again. As a law student he attends the trial of a group of women concentration camp guards, charged, among *other atrocities, with leaving a* number of prisoners to die in a locked church during an air raid while on a forced march. Hanna is one of the defendants.

As the trial proceeds, she seems determined to incriminate herself as deeply as possible. She allows the other defendants to portray her as the most culpable of all, the one who *spurred* the rest to greater horrors, improvising small brutalities all her own. As he watches the proceedings, Michael comes to under*stand why* she is anxious to assume this extra guilt, why (perhaps) she joined the SS in the first place, and why she made him read to her.

Schlink is a professor of law and the author of several popular crime novels, which may explain both his forensic rigour and his narrative skills. In *The Reader* he confronts the difficulty of evading (or *wholly recovering) his own* and his country's past. He explores the conflict between generations, wrestling with collective guilt and individual motivation. He examines the nature of understanding and *tests the limits of forgiveness.* He does these things with honesty, restraint and a moral precision both unsettling and rare. The result is as compelling as any thriller.

Too close for comfort

Gabriel Josipovici

THE ULTIMATE
INTIMACY
By Ivan Klima
Translated by A. G. Brain
Granta, £12.99
ISBN 1 86207 069 5

Ivan Klima has written a very old-fashioned novel. It is old-fashioned in its style, in its construction and in its dogged moral seriousness. *The narrative moves* arbitrarily between third person narrative, past and present tenses, diary entries and letters, the only *raison d'être* for these switches clearly *being* Klima's desire to make the moral issues raised by the novel as clear as possible. Yet because he is a serious and thoughtful person it has a certain power.

Daniel Vendra is a Protestant pastor *in* Prague. After harassment during the com[illegible]ra he is now free to preach as he likes, and his deep faith and evident goodness means that he is looked up to by his wife and children, his colleagues and *his* congregation. On the day his mother *dies he* notices a beautiful woman in the congregation. Eventually she gets to talk to him. Like him she is married for the second time but, whereas his first wife *died* young and he still mourns her passing, she is divorced and living with her architect husband, *her son by her first marriage* and two young children. As their intimacy increases he learns that she is part Jewish, lost her grandparents in the Holocaust, is obsessed by death and bitter about the way *her husband treats her.*

Almost imperceptibly he slides into an affair with her. His whole world begins to crumble and he eventually realises that he cannot go on preaching the Gospel. Yet he feels he has found an intimacy *with her he has never had with* his second wife and that this is more precious to him than anything else.

Adultery, when seriously treated in fiction, is never just about sex. It is about the *conflict between a sense that* the adulterous relationship *somehow* fulfils one as one's marriage can never do and the sense that duplicity is profoundly self-destructive and it is intolerable to inflict suffering on a person one respects. In a great novel of adultery, like Malamud's *Dubin's Lives*, the reader is brought face to face with incompatibles which must be lived through.

There is no such feeling here. For one thing the woman seems too neurotic and self-obsessed for someone like Daniel to fall in love with; for another there are just too many "serious" moral issues raised: Daniel learns that his *father may have* been an informer under the old regime; his daughter informs him *she is* pregnant and is determined to marry her drug-*pushing boyfriend; he learns* that a house is to be restored to him and wonders if the unexpected appearance of so much money will corrupt him; above all, he is not simply a married man, but a priest. It is all a bit *too much.*

As a result I will never reread this novel as I reread the works of Malamud and Muriel Spark, where form and content are one and the psychology always rings true. Yet I am *glad to have read it*, as I am not with the bulk of novels published today, which tend to be all form and no content, all surface and no depth.

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هكذا من الأصل

Bargains of the week: Visit the Pyramids at new year, pamper yourself at a health hydro or see the bright lights of Seattle

PACK YOUR BAGS

■ *A selection of last-minute holidays and travel opportunities at home, on the Continent and further afield, many at bargain prices:*

BRITAIN

PLYMOUTH HOE's ugly but perfectly situated Moat House Hotel is offering two-night breaks until December 21 for £69 a person, including dinner, bed and breakfast. Details: 0645 102030.

■ GATWICK passengers arriving or departing on inconvenient flights can take advantage of a special Goldenrail weekend rate of £27 a night at Russ Hill Hotel set in nearby countryside. A fortnight's parking is available for an extra £9.50. Details: 0161-238 5206.

■ SINGLES aged 30 to 50 can be pampered for a weekend from November 30 with Solo's Holidays at Springs Health Hydro, Packington, Leicestershire. The £245 price includes three nights' full board, treatment and entertainment. Details: 0181-951 2800.

■ COMPLETE Christmas shopping in one place over two days with an unlikely holiday offer from Andrew's of Tideswell. The place? The Metro Centre, Gateshead. The price: £49, including dinner, B&B at the Swallow Hotel and return coach travel from Derbyshire, on November 22. Details: 01298 871222.

■ ELTON JOHN live at the Wembley Arena on December 20 is featured in a £99 package from Superbreak with a night's B&B at the Excelsior Hotel, Heathrow, and coach transfers to the concert. Details: 0161-238 5257.

■ RIDE IN the new year with two days' trekking through the Mourne Mountains from Drumgooland House Equestrian Centre, Northern Ireland. The £299 package includes a New Year's Eve dinner and party, a dinner and musical evening on January 1 and ends with tea at the stables on January 2. Details: 01396 811956

EUROPE

THE BLARNEY STONE and balmy Irish air are included on five-day escorted tours starting from Dublin on the next three Fridays and taking in Cork, Killarney and Tipperary. The £420 price from CIE Tours International includes four nights half-board, excursions, evening entertainment and return flights from UK airports. Details: 0990 143910.

■ THE NORTH AFRICAN coast is warmer than Britain at the moment and prices are low: a fortnight's self-catering in Tunisia with Page & Moy, including a flight from Heathrow on Tuesday, costs £249. Details: 0116-250 7116.

■ ANOTHER deal to the Mediterranean, a week's Airtours package to Malta for £189 with half-board, is available on Tuesday from Stansted. Details from Co-op Travelcare: 0541 500388.

■ CYPRUS for long-stay winter holidays is available from Odyssey Holidays with flights from Gatwick on November 23 and 26 and January 7. Four weeks at a beach hotel in Limassol costs £499 a person, including half-board and car hire. Twelve weeks' self-catering in Paphos costs £419, including car hire. Details: 0181-343 9090.

■ SKIING in Sweden is becoming so popular that ten British companies are now offering winter packages. One of the best deals is a fly/drive holiday with Scandinavian Travel Service. Fly to Oslo, drive to Sälen for a week's self-catering from £298 a person based on five sharing. Details: 0171-559 6666.

■ IF SKI-MAD friends surround you, take advantage of a deal from Leisure Direction Ski, formerly French Impressions, which will take eight people in two cars across the Channel on December 13 for a week's self-catering in La Clusaz for £32 a head. Details: 0181-324 3030.

■ SEEING Santa in snowland is so much in demand that Cosmos is increasing the number of Santa specials to Finnish Lapland next month. Prices start from £589 an adult and £479 a child for four-day trips from Gatwick or Manchester on December 8 and include full-board. Details: 0161-480 5799.

MARK PEPPER

Four nights in Venice for the price of three is on offer from Citalia, starting on weekdays between December 1 and 10. The £256 price includes B&B at a three-star hotel, flights from Gatwick and the chance to pre-book seats for Vivaldi concerts. Details: 0181-686 5533

LONG HAUL

SUNSHINE and water sports are still plentiful in Eilat on the Gulf of Aqaba and Longwood Holidays has week-long packages available from next Monday and the following one for £255, including return flights from Luton and B&B at a choice of hotels. Details: 0181-551 4494.

■ THE THAI baht has dropped in value so spectacularly that good deals are available at quality hotels. A fortnight's B&B at a beach hotel in Koh Samui, with Tropical Places and including a flight from Heathrow on Tuesday, costs £679. Flights on other days cost £70 more. Details: 01342 825123.

■ AUSTRALIA for £299 return is on offer from Austravel, but you must leave either on Sunday from Manchester for Sydney or on Monday from Gatwick for Perth. Details: 0171-734 7755.

■ SEATTLE, where the lights now shine brightly after the 1970s depression, is available to students and under-26s for £277 return with Campus Travel. Depart by December 14 and return within a year. Details: 0171-730 2101.

■ THE Pyramids at new year are on offer from Bales Tours as part of an eight-day trip to Egypt, leaving Heathrow on December 29 and including Cairo, the Valley of the Kings and the Temples of Thebes (Luxor). Price: £755 including flights and B&B. Details: 01306 885991.

■ A 14-DAY Far East cruise leaving from Singapore on January 3 to Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia is available from The Cruise Line at £3,080, including London-Singapore flights and all food and drink. Details: 01273 835252.

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RACING: SCOTTISH CHASER 9-4 FOR MURPHY'S GOLD CUP

Sparky Gayle go-ahead sets Cheltenham betting alight

By Richard Evans, racing correspondent

A PLEASING mile and a half canter by Sparky Gayle yesterday convinced Colin Parker to allow his stable star to line up for the Murphy's Gold Cup at Cheltenham on Saturday — and persuaded some bookmakers to put their heads above the parapet for the first big chase of the season.

The layers had been reluctant to price up the traditional curtain raiser to the proper jumps season until Parker decided whether to go to Cheltenham or opt for the Sean Graham Chase at Ayr — and they quickly installed the seven-year-old as favourite.

Ladbrokes bets: 9-4 Sparky Gayle, 5-2 Challenger Du Luc, 3-1 Dublin Flyer, 9-2 Bertone, 16-1 bar, while William Hill offers: 2-1 Sparky Gayle, 5-2 Challenger Du Luc, 4-1 Dublin Flyer, 9-2 Bertone, 14-1 bar.

With Dublin Flyer, winner of the race in 1995, heading the handicap on 12 stone, Sparky Gayle has only 10st 2lb — a lenient weight for a horse who has won all six starts over fences last term, including the Cathcart Chase.

Parker acknowledged yesterday that Sparky Gayle's attractive mark was the main reason for heading south from his Scottish base. "We were always going to go to Cheltenham as from last weekend; we just kept our option open. He did a canter this morning and did a strong piece of work on Saturday — and worked well."

Tim Forster, trainer of Dublin Flyer, admitted yesterday that his immensely popular chaser would find it difficult to give Sparky Gayle and others the best part of two stone "when you are not as good as you were." Even allowing for Forster's legendary pessimism, he has a point.

At Worcester yesterday, Forster experienced one of those days which leaves trainers — not to mention punters — in a state of confusion. Having seen two firm favourites get beaten, when they looked sure to win, he duly found himself in the winner's enclosure with an unfancied 12-1 shot. It almost proved too much for the affable Captain.

Donjuan Collonges looked a certainty between the last two fences of the Dunley Chase. However, when Paul Carberry looked over his shoulder and saw Kamikaze edging closer, he asked his mount for a big jump at the last. Somehow, the message did not get through and the six-year-old did his best to demolish the last fence rather than jump it.

"That sort of thing is bad for every part of you, particularly for one's heart when you take three pills at breakfast," Forster said. "He [Paul Carberry] is a launcher and I suspect he always will be. I watch him on the television and that's his style. He launches them — and a lot of the time he is very successful at it."

Half an hour later, Forster must have been thinking of how to spend his share of the winner's prize-money in the Colwall Handicap Hurdle as Bold Statement cruised alongside the front-running Miss Roberto approaching the final flight. However, on the run-in Miss Roberto proved the stronger. More pills for the Captain, one suspected.

Then, out of the blue, salvation arrived in the shape of Arkle. Well almost. The Duchess of Westminster's colours — yellow, black belt and cap with gold tassle — made famous by the best chaser of all time, were worn by Richard Johnson on Wandering Light. The eight-year-old's form figures offered no clue to the ease of his victory in the Egdon Novices' Chase — but the trainer had an explanation.

"You would not believe it but this horse was going incredibly well, like a winner, at Hereford last season and nearly got brought down on the flat," the trainer reported. "He went down on his knees in the middle of a big bunch of horses and it shook him rigid. I have never had a horse come back so frightened. It has taken him a long time to get organised."

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: Executive Design
(2.15 Market Rasen)

Executive Design goes well fresh, having won on his seasonal debut for the past two seasons, and has schooled well for his fencing debut. His trainer, Mary Reveley, boasts a 26 per cent strike-rate here.

Next Best: Coole Hill
(3.15 Market Rasen)

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Wandering Light jumps the last on his way to victory in the Egdon Novices' Chase at Worcester yesterday

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BETTING: 9-4 Little Hooligan, 11-2 Hubert, 6-1 Hever Golf Diamond, Laura Lye, 8-1 Winter Melody, 10-1 others

1996: LITTLE HOOLIGAN 5-11-10 R Johnson (6-1) G Edwards 10 ran

FORM FOCUS Hever Golf Diamond 5¾l 4th to Highly Reputable in 2m Fakenham selling handicap hurdle (good). Hubert 7¼l 3rd to Fijon in 2m Stratford selling hurdle (good) with Obelos (6lb better off) 72l 9th and Ericolin (5lb better off) 76l 11th. Laura Lye 17l 5th to Northern Drums in 2m 1f selling handicap hurdle here (good to firm) with Coochie (4lb better off) 24l 9th. Little Hooligan neck 2nd to Colway Prince in Ludlow selling handicap hurdle (good).

HEVER GOLF DIAMOND can hold off Little Hooligan

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203 BEAND SCRIPT 98F (A Fitzgerald) Mrs S Williams 4-11-5 S McNeill —
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205 3120- KING MOLE 245 (S) (D Milne) J Old 6-11-5 M A Fitzgerald —
206 3250- KING OF THE BLUES 195 (I Watkinson) J King 5-11-5 J Culloty —
207 3-P NORTHERN GREY 17 (A Thomas) A Carroll 5-11-5 T J Murphy 76
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BETTING: 9-4 King Mole, 7-2 Welton Arsenal, 4-1 Two To Tango, 6-1 King Of The Blues, 10-1 others.

1996: ROSENCRANTZ 4-11-12 N Williamson (evens fav) Miss V Williams 13 ran

FORM FOCUS Aerial View 1l 2nd to Northern Drums in 2m 1f selling hurdle here (firm). King Mole 28l 15th to Florida Pearl in 2m Cheltenham NH Flat race (good to firm). Rumpelstiltskin 14l 3rd to Zander in 2m Chepstow novice hurdle (good). Welton Arsenal pulled up in 2m Wincanton maiden hurdle (good), previously ¾l 2nd to Tristram's Image in 2m maiden hurdle here (good). Two To Tango 15l 5th to Infamous in 2m Hereford novice hurdle (good to firm).

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G Edwards	6	35	17.1	B Fenton	3	23	13.0

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Timekeeper's speed rating

2.05 SCOTTISH EQUITABLE/JOCKEYS ASSOCIATION NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (£4,280: 2m 3f) (12 runners)

301 034-231 SUPERMICK 10 (F,S) (P Clarke) M Pipe 6-12-0 (7ex) A P McCoy 98
302 31151/0 HIGHTOWN CAVALIER 22 (D,S) (Miss R Dobson) R Hodges 6-11-10 J Harris (7) 79
303 331-225 LOSLOMOS 21 (G) (Russell Publishing Ltd) G Balding 5-11-5 B Fenton —
304 31-2554 SHILLELAGH OAK 22 (B,S) (C Mohr) J O'Shea 7-11-5 M A Fitzgerald 100
305 34-2126 INDIAN TEMPLE 27 (CD,F) (D Clarke) K Bishop 6-11-2 G Supple (5) 102
306 /03P42- EKEUS 251 (Miss S Douglas-Pennant) J King 7-10-11 J Culloty —
307 /3R2253 CAN'T SAY 8 (M Carver) J Bradley 5-10-11 R Farrant 93
308 4663/5 SILENT GUNS 28 (G Edwards) G Edwards 8-10-8 B Powell 79
309 63F/F23 SPRING SUNRISE 20 (B) (Mrs D Vaughan) B De Haan 7-10-7 S McNeill 60
310 0P-40 MASTER BOMBER 15 (D Fear) R Alner 6-10-3 A Thornton 89
311 /PP-503 SANDS POINT 27 (B) (Mrs C Heyton) C Popham 7-10-3 Mr O McPhail (7) 68
312 0PP3/0- DUNNICKS WELL 251 (F Tucker) F Tucker 8-10-0 M Griffiths (7) —

Long handicap: Dunnicks Well 9-8.

BETTING: 3-1 Loslomos, 7-2 Supermick, 7-1 Spring Sunrise, Master Bomber, 8-1 Shillelagh Oak, Indian Temple. 10-1 Ekeus, 12-1 others.

1996: CHICKABIDDY 8-11-0 R Johnson (5-2) G Edwards 5 ran

FORM FOCUS Supermick beat Dr Rocket 3l in 2m Plumpton handicap chase (good to firm). Loslomos 19l 5th to Polo Ridge in 2¾m Wincanton novice hurdle (good). Shillelagh Oak 8l 4th to Keep Me In Mind in 2m Exeter novice handicap chase (good) with Hightown Cavalier (4lb worse off), beaten a distance, 8th. Ekeus 16l 2nd to Parliamentarian in 3m Sandown novice handicap chase (good). Can't Say 24l 3rd to Glamanglitz in 2m 5f Uttoxeter novice handicap chase (good); Spring Sunrise 29l 3rd to Peace Lord in 2m Fakenham novice chase (good).
Sands Point 17l 3rd to Storm Run in 2m 3f Hereford novice handicap chase (good) with Indian Temple (4lb worse off) 44l 6th.

SUPERMICK won well at Plumpton and can complete double

2.35 SOUTH WEST RACING CLUB AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP HURDLE
(£1,917: 2m 3f 110yd) (10 runners)

401 1U-4P45 NOBLELY 42 (C,F,G,S) (Mrs C Walker) R Alner 10-11-10 J Tizzard (5) 92
402 161154- BORN TO PLEASE 203 (D,F) (A B S Racing) P Hobbs 5-11-3 R White (5) 89
403 F5122 ZELIBA 51 (BF,F) (Best The Book) P Cummings 5-11-0 C Bonner (3) 97
404 43U2335 PAIR OF JACKS 8 (F,G) (Gordano Buccaneers) P Hobbs 7-10-10 R Widger (7) 95
405 1140/34 REACH FOR GLORY 118 (F,G) (G Richards) Graham Richards 8-10-6 S Blackwell (7) 85
406 405013- COUNTRY TARQUIN 187 (S) (Miss C James) R Hodges 5-10-5 R Walley (5) 83
407 45-1361 A S JIM 4 (D,F,G) (H Jones) O O'Neill 6-10-0 H Oliver (7) 110
408 110P-50 TOP SKIPPER 22 (G,S) (V Greenway) V Greenway 5-10-0 O McPhail (7) 89
409 3-23353 MILZIG 15 (F) (J Joseph) J Joseph 8-10-0 Miss Belinda Fisher (7) 99
410 /FP-0PP SWEETLY DISPOSED 35 (T Eager) C Jones 9-10-0 Miss B Small (7) —

Long handicap: Top Skipper 9-13, Milzig 9-11, Sweetly Disposed 8-0

BETTING: 3-1 A S Jim, 9-2 Zeliba, 5-1 Born To Please, 6-1 Country Tarquin, 7-1 Pair Of Jacks, 8-1 Noblely, 10-1 Milzig, 12-1 others.

1996: NOVA RUN 7-11-5 C Vigors (4-1) N Henderson 11 ran

FORM FOCUS Noblely 13l 5th to Northern Drums in 2m1f Taunton selling hurdle (firm). Born To Please beaten a distance last of 4 to Scud Missile in 2¾m Fontwell handicap hurdle (good to firm). Zeliba 1l 2nd to Fabulon in 2½m Plumpton novice hurdle (good to firm). Pair Of Jacks 21l 5th to Barnapour in 2m Newton Abbot novice handicap chase (good to firm). Country Tarquin 16l 3rd to Brave Tornado in 2¾m Newton Abbot handicap hurdle (good to soft). A S Jim beat Evezio Rufo 7l in 2m Warwick handicap hurdle (good). Top Skipper 39l 11th to The Brewer in 2m3f Exeter handicap hurdle (good) Milzig 29l 3rd to King Curan in 2¼m Fontwell selling handicap hurdle (good)

COUNTRY TARQUIN looks well treated on his best form and is open to improvement

Blinkered first time

LINGFIELD PARK: 12.20 Whizz Kid. 12.50 Muhandis. 1.50 Fast Franc 2.25 Edan Heights, Largesse. MARKET RASEN: 1.40 Sheraz. 3.45 Prussia.

3.05 EGERTON ANNIVERSARY HANDICAP CHASE (£2,840: 3m) (10 runners)

501 B4/0P-3 GHIA GNEUIAGH 33 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs S Scott) N Twiston-Davies 11-11-13 C Llewellyn 107
502 544-643 LAKE OF LOUGHREA 8 (B,F,G) (Mrs H Dufley) K Bailey 7-11-11 A Thornton 95
503 4-10122 DUBELLE 17 (F,G) (W Lee) J King 7-11-10 J Culloty 87
504 13,6F0 SUPER MALT 702 (F,G,S) (F Allison) B Meehan 9-11-3 G Upton —
505 45143-F DREAM LEADER 37 (F) (M Roberts) M J Roberts 7-10-13 A P McCoy 90
506 43F2P5- JAILBREAKER 175 (G,S) (Jay Partnership) B Millman 10-10-12 D Salter (5) 88
507 4/4555- STEEPLE JACK 227 (B,CD,S) (K Bishop) K Bishop 10-10-11 R Greene 85
508 32-1304 IT'S NOT MY FAULT 110 (D,F,G,S) (D Jones) R Frost 9-10-8 J Frost 87
509 PPP3-03 RYTON RUN 10 (D,F,G) (W Odell) Mrs S Odell 12-10-7 B Fenton 80
510 P3PP-65 L'UOMO PIU 28 (CD,F,G,S) (C Spencer) A Barrow 13-10-7 Mr O McPhail (7) 86

BETTING: 7-2 Ghia Gneuiagh, 4-1 Lake Of Loughrea, Dream Leader, 9-2 Dubelle, 7-1 Jailbreaker. 10-1 others.

1996: LA MEZERAY 8-10-3 D Walsh (5-1) Mrs J Hawkins 6 ran

FORM FOCUS Ghia Gneuiagh 4¾l 3rd to Top Javalin in 3m Bangor handicap chase (good) Lake Of Loughrea 15l 3rd to Monymoss in 3m Kempton handicap chase (good to firm). Dubelle 28l 2nd to Parliamentarian in 2m Towcester handicap chase (good to firm). Super Malt 27l last of 8 to Equity Player in 3¼m Folkestone handicap chase (good). Dream Leader, 3rd when fell 13th in 3¼m Plumpton handicap chase (good). Jailbreaker 29l 5th to Mr Playfull in 2½m Exeter handicap chase (good). Steeple Jack 18l 5th to Merlins Dream in 3m1f Towcester handicap chase (good to firm) It's Not My Fault 33l 4th to Professor Page in 3m1f Market Rasen novice handicap chase (good to firm). Ryton Run distance 3rd to Normarange in 2m5f Plumpton handicap chase (good to firm).

GHIA GNEUIAGH can improve on his promising reappearance

3.35 SKYLARK NOVICES HURDLE (£2,814: 3m 110yd) (10 runners)

601 12131-2 DECYBORG 28 (F,G) (T Neill) M Pipe 6-11-5 A P McCoy 103
602 4254-10 GAMAY 23 (D,G,S) (J Boulter) N Mitchell 7-11-5 C Llewellyn 100
603 0P-P21P ST MELLION LEISURE 21 (F) (St Mellion Estates Ltd) N Hawke 5-11-5 A Thornton 98
604 0- EAGER BEAVER 243 (The Medley Crew) N Twiston-Davies 5-10-12 T Jenks 80
605 44 MASTER MILLFIELD 21 (P Slade) R Hodges 5-10-12 T Dascombe 99
606 /500-6P SIERRA NEVADA 31 (P Bertram) N Hawke 6-10-12 R Greene 84
607 /530-0P WEAVER SQUARE 108 (Eric Bakes) P Eccles 8-10-12 D Gallagher —
608 3P30-U0 HYDEMILLA 14 (Mrs T Pitkington) Mrs T Pitkington 7-10-7 C Webb (5) 79
609 PPP0P0- LILLY THE FILLY 246 (E Dawes, D Jones & E Piper) Mrs B Waring 6-10-7 E Byrne 78
610 300-0 GOLDEN LILY 10 (Mrs M Fairbairn) Gay Kelleway 4-10-6 M A Fitzgerald 75

BETTING: 5-2 Decyborg, 7-2 Gamay, Master Millfield, 9-2 St Mellion Leisure, 8-1 Eager Beaver, 10-1 others.

1996: HONEY MOUNT 5-10-12 N Williamson (9-4 fav) N Walker 9 ran

FORM FOCUS Decyborg 11l 2nd to Danger Baby in 3m Taunton handicap chase (good to firm). Gamay 16l 7th to Vitaman in 2½m Chepstow novice hurdle (good).
St Mellion Leisure previously beat Veiled Dancer 2½l in 2¾m Wincanton novice hurdle (firm) on penultimate start. Eager Beaver 43l 7th to Shekels in 2m Uttoxeter novice hurdle (good). Master Millfield 16l 4th to Prince Kinsky in 2m Wincanton novice hurdle (good). Golden Lily 20l 8th to Maggie Strait in 2½m Plumpton maiden hurdle (good to firm).

DECYBORG, reverting to hurdles after a spell chasing, should outclass a weak field

4.05 WEATHERBYS STARS OF TOMORROW OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT
(£1,208: 2m 1f) (13 runners)

1 1 ORSWELLTHATENSWELL 8 (D,F) (R Wright) P Hobbs 6-11-11 Mr R Widger (7) —
2 3 AUTUMN BLUNDER 21 (Mrs Olwen Hughes) A Carroll 5-11-4 X Aizpuru (5) —
3 GAMBLING GUNNER (Mrs J Robshaw) M Pipe 5-11-4 A P McCoy —
4 0- HOTEL CASINO 225 (Sir Robin Dunn) A Dunn 5-11-4 G Tormey —
5 0-0 LUCKY TOUCH 152 (Ridgebarn Farm Stud) W Muir 4-11-4 A Bates (5) —
6 SALFORD QUAY (A Thompson) Mrs J Pitman 4-11-4 R Farrant —
7 0/P- SPANISH RIVER 250P (Mrs S Boden) N Lampard 6-11-4 G Upton —
8 0- SPRUCE LODGE 288 (Mrs W Jarrell) J King 4-11-4 S Houghton (7) —
9 STRONG BREW (Lady St Clair-Ford, J Pemsel) K Bailey 5-11-4 Mr R Wakley (5) —
10 WINNING TOWN (B R G Racers) P Farrell 4-11-4 L Harvey —
11 0 INDIAN LEGEND 78 (F & E Ridge) Mrs S Williams 4-10-13 Sophie Mitchell (5) —
12 SECRET ROSE (Mrs D Jenks) M Pipe 5-10-13 G Supple (5) —
13 VALIANT MEMORY (Club UK Racing & Friendship Club) N Chance 4-10-13 P Ryan (7) —

BETTING: 3-1 Orswellthatenswell, 5-1 Gambling Gunner, Strong Brew, 6-1 Salford Quay, 10-1 others.

1996: MIDAS 5-11-4 A P McCoy (3-1) K Burke 10 ran

FORM FOCUS Orswellthatenswell beat Cosy Ride 2½l in 2m1f Newton Abbot NH flat race (good to firm). Autumn Blunder 3½l 3rd to Diamond Hall in 2m Ludlow NH flat race (good to firm). Gambling Gunner, Gunner B gelding, out of the winning chaser Walnut Way. Lucky Touch 22l 7th to Double Star in 1½m Market Rasen NH flat race (good to firm). Salford Quay, King's Ride gelding, out of a very lightly-raced mare. Spruce Lodge 42l 8th to Nosey Miner in 2m Wincanton NH flat race (good) Strong Brew, Strong Gale gelding, half-brother to winning jumper Buckhouse Boy. Winning Town, Jester gelding, out of the winning stayer Lurex Girl. Secret Rose, Derrylin mare, out of the winning hurdler Levantine Rose

ORSWELLTHATENSWELL is best of those with experience, but vulnerable under a penalty

Copper Boy gives Powell incentive

By Chris McGrath

BRENDAN POWELL may be in the autumn of his riding career, but racegoers at Newbury yesterday saw that this can be the season most worth savouring.

The perplexing dearth of runners — only 30 horses contested a card staged on perfectly decent going — could not dull a glorious afternoon for National Hunt aficionados who witnessed a performance of considerable promise against the background of crimson trees in the back straight.

Copper Boy's successful debut over fences in the Halloween Novices' Chase ensured that Powell has every incentive to ride on, even when Dublin Flyer's own retirement brings an end to one of the most popular jumping partnerships of recent years.

While they will once again threaten the Cheltenham grandstand roof if repeating their Murphy's Gold Cup triumph of two years ago on Saturday, Powell has a potential successor in Copper Boy. But while Dublin Flyer has always distinguished himself by the buoyant flair of his jumping, the imposing Copper Boy has not yet tamed his raw power with any great subtlety — requiring much skilful honing by his trainer, Bob Buckler.

The lightly raced eight-year-old produced some really attacking leaps for Powell, notably going down the back straight, but equally looked naive when harried by the odds-on favourite, Northern Starlight, and jumped queasily to the left in the straight as the race took its toll, in terms of both mental and physical effort. Nonetheless this performance makes Copper Boy the most promising novice of the season to date, his eight-length victim having had some smart rivals under control when left clear at Chepstow last Saturday.

"He's the best horse I've trained, but he's had his problems and he's always pretty nerve-wracking as a result," Buckler said. "In an ordinary novice chase nothing could live with him, but he tried to rush things when taken on, when Northern Starlight tried to take advantage of his inexperience. In front, he settled and jumped nicely — he's been doing a lot of work with Yogi Breisner."

The vulnerability behind Copper Boy's prowess was underlined when he broke a blood vessel when second favourite for the Coral Cup at the Cheltenham Festival, but there is no doubting that he has the basic talent to return there for the Royal SunAlliance Novices' Chase next March.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Newbury

Going: good to firm (chase course), good (hurdles)

1.20 (3m 110yd hdle) 1, HILLSWICK (A P McCoy, 8-15 fav); 2, Shimba Hills (D Bridgwater, 7-1); 3, Javelin Cool (R Thornton, 16-1). ALSO RAN: 3 Into The Web (4th). 4 ran. 10l, 4l, dist. J King at Swindon. Tote: £1.40. DF: £3.30. CSF: £4.17

1.50 (3m ch) 1, LAUGHING FONTAINE (Mr R Wakley, 11-2); 2, Mutual Agreement (M A Fitzgerald, 13-8 fav); 3, Calleva Star (P Holley, 9-4). ALSO RAN: 4 Snow Board (4th). 4 ran. 2l, 24l, dist. K Bailey at Upper Lambourn. Tote: £7.80. DF: £4.00. CSF: £12.69

2.20 (2m 5f hdle) 1, DARAYDAN (A P McCoy, 1-8 fav); 2, Occold (R Thornton, 10-1); 3, Flinders Wood (B Powell, 16-1). 3 ran. 8l, dist. M Pipe at Wellington. Tote: £1.10. DF: £1.10. CSF: £1.60

2.50 (2m 4f ch) 1, COPPER BOY (B Powell, 2-1); 2, Northern Starlight (A P McCoy, 4-5 fav); 3, Killeaney Carr (L Aspell, 20-1). ALSO RAN: 5 Mahler (4th). 4 ran. 8l, dist, 18l. R Buckler at Bridport. Tote: £2.90. DF: £1.90. CSF: £3.91

3.20 (2m 1f ch) 1, DR ROCKET (X Aizpuru, 6-5 fav); 2, Black Statement (L Aspell, 3-1); 3, Faustino (R Thornton, 2-1). 3 ran. 10l, 27l. R Dickin at Newent. Tote: £2.00. DF: £2.20. CSF: £3.99

3.50 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, CHERRYMORE (R Farrant, 7-1); 2, Country Beau (M A Fitzgerald, 9-4 fav); 3, Big Perks (C Maude, 16-1). ALSO RAN: 7-2 Persian Boy, 5 Billingsgate, 15-2 Skycab (5th), 16 Bessie Browne (4th), 20 News Flash, Racketball (6th), 33 Majestic Affair, 50 Pedlar's Cross, 100 Joctor Don. 12 ran. 2½l, 6l, nk, 6l, 5l. Mrs J Pitman at Upper Lambourn. Tote: £5.60; £1.50, £1.60, £3.10. DF: £7.20. Trio: £24.10. CSF: £21.06.

Placepot: £255.80. Quadpot: £18.60.

Kelso

Going: good, good to firm in places

1.10 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Most Wanted (C McCormack, 20-1); 2, Traceability (11-4); 3, Escobar (14-1). China Castle 2-1 fav. 18 ran. Nk, 1l. W McKeown. Tote: £28.40; £5.10, £1.80, £2.60. DF: £49.60. CSF: £71.34. Trio: £246.90.

1.40 (3m 1f ch) 1, Pentlands Flyer (A Dobbin, 1-3 fav); 2, Memica (12-1); 3, Aldo Memoire (12-1). 5 ran. 2½l, 12l. J Howard Johnson. Tote: £1.30; £1.10, £3.80. DF: £5.40. CSF: £4.83

2.10 (2m 2f hdle) 1, Well Appointed (G Lee, 8-1); 2, China King (5-2 fav); 3, Contrafire (9-1). 8 ran. Hd, 6l. B Mactaggart. Tote: £10.80; £2.00, £1.40, £2.30. DF: £11.30. CSF: £26.25. Tricast: £168.42.

2.40 (2m 6f 110yd ch) 1, Ballyline (A Dobbin, 9-2); 2, Ceilidh Boy (12-1); 3, Weaver George (2-1 jt-fav). 5 ran. 7l, 4l. W Kemp. Tote: £5.60; £2.00, £2.60. DF: £18.80. CSF: £19.53. Classic Contact (2-1 jt-fav) withdrawn, not under orders — rule 4 applies to all bets, deduction 30p in pound

3.10 (2m 1f ch) 1, Coqui Lane (D Parker, 3-1); 2, Wayuphill (13-8); 3, Briar's Delight (11-8 fav). 4 ran. Nk, 1l. J Dun. Tote: £3.60. DF: £3.20. CSF: £7.68.

3.40 (2m 6f 110yd hdle) 1, More Champagne (D Parker, 12-1); 2, Nutty Solera (9-1); 3, Chariot Man (25-1). Onyourown 5-2 fav. 11 ran. 1l, 5l. Mrs D Thomson. Tote: £16.80; £1.40, £3.60, £8.10. DF: £74.10. Trio: £314.60. CSF: £105.52. Tricast: £2,441.70

Placepot: £2,794.50. Quadpot: £316.60.

Worcester

Going: good, good to soft in places

1.00 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Easy Feelin (A Maguire, 2-1 fav); 2, Raffles Rooster (5-1); 3, Sweet Lord (10-1). 22 ran. 9l, nk. D Nicholson. Tote: £3.00; £1.80, £2.60, £3.40. DF: £14.80. Trio: £55.40. CSF: £10.84

1.30 (2m 7f 110yd ch) 1, Kamikaze (N Williamson, 4-1); 2, Orswell Lad (11-2); 3, Larry's Lord (4-1). Donjuan Collonges (11-8 fav). 6 ran. 21l, nk. K Bailey. Tote: £4.30; £2.90, £2.90. DF: £18.20. CSF: £21.16

2.00 (2m hdle) 1, Miss Roberto (T J Murphy, 5-1); 2, Bold Statement (13-8 fav); 3, Garolo (4-1). 7 ran. ½l, 6l. J O'Shea. Tote: £8.40; £3.10, £1.10. DF: £3.80. CSF: £11.15.

2.30 (2m 7f 110yd ch) 1, Wandering Light (R Johnson, 12-1); 2, Henry Cone (6-1); 3, Nearly An Eye (13-8 fav). 10 ran. 9l, 12l. T Forster. Tote: £14.90; £3.20, £1.50, £1.50. DF: £27.10. Trio: £37.50. CSF: £69.35

3.00 (2m hdle) 1, Alpine Joker (R Dunwoody, 5-2 fav); 2, Bernard Seven (7-2); 3, Out Of The Blue (33-1). 10 ran. ½l, 10l. P Hobbs. Tote: £4.70; £1.70, £1.30, £4.10. DF: £4.30. Trio: £70.10. CSF: £10.86. Tricast: £200.03

3.30 (2m ch) 1, Tidebrook (N Williamson, 9-4); 2, Zaitoon (2-1 fav); 3, Hawkfield (11-4). 5 ran. 4l, 4l. K Bailey. Tote: £2.20; £1.30, £1.80. DF: £3.00. CSF: £6.91

4.00 (2m flat) 1, Conchobor (W Walsh, 5-1); 2, Jungli (20-1); 3, Dirty Dozen (10-11 fav). 21 ran. NR: Little Miller. 5l, 8l. K Bailey. Tote: £4.70; £1.80, £6.80, £1.10. DF: £193.10. Trio: £79.70. CSF: £105.59

Jackpot: £7,100.00 (0.3 winning tickets. Pool of £6,285.57 carried forward to Taunton today).

Placepot: £24.20. Quadpot: £2.40

RAPID RACELINE

0930 168+

	COMMENTARY	RESULTS
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TAUNTON	102	202
LINGFIELD	103	203
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MARKET RASEN

THUNDERER

1.10 Our Kris. 1.40 General Haven. 2.15 Feel The Power. 2.45 Dulas Bay. 3.15 Double Achievement. 3.45 Toby Brown.

Timekeeper's top rating: 2.15 FEEL THE POWER.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES) SIS

1.10 CARADON MIRA CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,390: 2m 1f 110yd) (10 runners)

1 33-5 OUR KRIS 14 (B,D,G) M Sowersby 5-12-0 E Callaghan 100
2 05-3 DUANGO 8 (D,G) J FitzGerald 5-12-0 F Leahy 90
3 215 COTTAGE PRINCE 19 (D,F,G) J J Quinn 4-11-8 G Hogan 101
4 521- SILLY MONEY 295 (G) T Easterby 6-11-9 R Thornton 98
5 123 TAPATCH 10 (B,BF,D,F,G) M W Easterby 9-11-2 P Midgley 94
6 420- BRUMON 202 (V,S) M Muggeridge 6-10-12 N Lynn (5) 89
7 1214 DOWN THE YARD 13 (CD,G) M Chapman 4-10-10 G Lee 104
8 200- TIP IT IN 185F (CD,G,S) A Smith 8-10-10 N Horrocks (3) 88
9 P23- CRABBIE'S PRIDE 229 M Meagher 4-10-4 C McCormack (3) 90
10 /00/ WHITEWEBB 1068 (G,S) B Murray 10-10-0 D J Kavanagh —

11-4 Duango, 7-2 Silly Money, 11-2 Cottage Prince, 7-1 Tapatch, 10-1 others.

1.40 SELKIRK NOVICES HURDLE
(£3,197: 2m 1f 110yd) (19)

1 1 INDIANA PRINCESS 19 (CD,G) Mrs M Reveley 4-10-13 P Niven 103
2 00-4 ADMIRAL'S GUEST 79 W Clay 5-10-12 R Johnson 84
3 00-2 AFRICAN SUN 18 M Chapman 4-10-12 W Worthington 89
4 3 AS YOU LIKE IT 19 Mrs D Haine 5-10-12 J F Titley 105
5 0/0- FORBES 228F J Howard Johnson 5-10-12 G Bradley —
6 GENERAL HAVEN 88F M Sowersby 4-10-12 A S Smith —
7 0 LAY THE BLAME 26 M Hammond 4-10-12 R Garritty 66
8 -050 LYSANDER 19 Mrs S Lamyman 5-10-12 J Magee (3) —
9 MOOTS 22F B Ellison 6-10-12 C McCormack (7) —
10 MOUNTGATE 10F M Bielby 5-10-12 A Dobbin —
11 60- NAMOODAJ 285 D Nicholson 4-10-12 A Maguire 88
12 0300 PORT VALENSKA 19 J A Harris 4-10-12 Mr M Mackley (7) 74
13 ROYAL RESULT 16F M W Easterby 4-10-12 N Williamson —
14 SHARK 30F K Morgan 4-10-12 R Massey (3) —
15 U0/0 SHERAZ 8 (B) N Tinkler 5-10-12 R Guest —
16 SPA LANE 28F M Bielby 4-10-12 R Thornton (3) —
17 DARIO'S GIRL 135F J Haynes 4-10-7 D Parker —
18 P0 DAUGHTER IN LAW 12 Miss C Caroe 4-10-7 I Lawrence —
19 P JILL 33 S Brookshaw 6-10-7 C Maude —

3-1 Namoodaj, 7-2 Indiana Princess, 9-2 As You Like It, 8-1 Royal Result, 10-1 Shark, 12-1 Moots, 14-1 Lay The Blame, 20-1 others.

2.15 JACKSON BUILDING CENTRES NOVICES CHASE
(£3,834: 2m 4f) (8)

1 P6-0 CLONROCHE LUCKY 6 (B) J Wade 7-11-2 S Taylor (5) 79
2 20-F DURANO 13 (G) T Easterby 6-11-2 R Garritty 89
3 226- FEEL THE POWER 278 (S) K Bailey 8-11-2 N Williamson 129
4 2/ KING OF THE BURREN 956P Mrs S Smith 7-11-2 R Guest —
5 161- PUREVALUE 243 (D,F,G,S) M W Easterby 6-11-2 A Maguire —
6 005- EXECUTIVE DESIGN 192F (G,S) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-1 P Niven —
7 1/1/ WELLWOTDOUTHINK (F,G,S) M Reveley 11-10-11 N Smith —
8 P1- RALEAGH NATIVE 201P (G) C Brooks 4-10-6 G Bradley —

5-4 Durano, 4-1 Purevalue, 5-1 Executive Design, 11-2 Feel The Power, 8-1 Raleagh Native, 14-1 Wellwotdouthink, 20-1 others.

2.45 AIR PRODUCTS JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE
(3-Y-O: £2,999: 2m 1f 110yd) (15)

1 6011 FATALISTE 51 (F,G) M Pipe 11-12 C Maude 95
2 21 KINGDOM EMPEROR 21 (F) W Clay 11-5 R Johnson 89
3 0 BO DANCER 8 K Hogg 10-12 M Foster —
4 CANADIAN FANTASY 97F Mrs V Ward 10-12 R Thornton (3) —
5 2 DULAS BAY 29 M W Easterby 10-12 N Williamson 99
6 0 IMPERIAL OR METRIC 8 J J O'Neill 10-12 R McGrath (5) 76
7 4P KAYESAM 20 J L Harris 10-12 A S Smith —
8 NERONIAN 146F J Howard Johnson 10-12 A Dobbin —
9 50 NORTHERN FLASH 8 J Haynes 10-12 D Parker 94
10 0 RISKY FLIGHT 29 A Smith 10-12 N Horrocks (7) 53
11 0 RUSSIAN ASPECT 8 M W Easterby 10-12 P Midgley (5) —
12 SAD MAD BAD 24F Mrs M Reveley 10-12 P Niven —
13 0 WHITEGATE'S SON 22F B Ellison 10-12 M H Naughton (5) —
14 5 JUKEBOX JIVE 8 M Hammond 10-7 R Garritty —
15 0 LOCH-HURN LADY 8 K Hogg 10-7 D Bentley —

6-4 Dulas Bay, 7-2 Fataliste, 7-1 Neronian, 8-1 Sad Mad Bad, 10-1 Kingdom Emperor, Jukebox Jive, 14-1 Canadian Fantasy, 16-1 others.

3.15 CARADON IDEAL HANDICAP CHASE
(£2,929: 3m 1f) (9)

1 54U DARK OAK 14 (CD,F,G,S) J Curtis 11-11-13 D Byrne 105
2 F20- NAUGHTY FUTURE 229 (D,G,S) J J O'Neill 8-11-12 R McGrath (5) 109
3 413 THE WHOLE HOG 7 (BF,D,F) K Bailey 8-11-8 N Williamson 97
4 242- COOLE HILL 259 (G) D Nicholson 6-11-8 A Maguire 104
5 /P50 MR FUDGE 33 (F,G) M Sowersby 10-11-2 M H Naughton (5) —
6 540- MAJORITY MAJOR 182 (G,S) P Cheesbrough 8-10-10 R Johnson 108
7 360- DEISE MARSHALL 303 J Wade 9-10-9 A S Smith 87
8 F1-U FORT ZEDDAAN 18 (F) Mrs S Smith 7-10-5 R Guest 100
9 P-P3 DOUBLE ACHIEVEMENT 18 M Pipe 7-10-0 C Maude 107

2-1 Coole Hill, 3-1 The Whole Hog, 4-1 Naughty Future, 5-1 Dark Oak, 12-1 Fort Zeddaan, 16-1 Double Achievement, 20-1 Majority Major, Deise Marshall, 33-1 Mr Fudge.

3.45 GRUNDSOS HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,338: 2m 5f 110yd) (13)

1 311- PHAR SMOOTHER 227 (C,F,S) J FitzGerald 5-12-0 F Leahy (3) 95
2 6-45 JACKSON PARK 13 (G) T Easterby 4-11-9 R Garritty 100
3 2234 BOURDONNER 14 (F,G) M Hammond 5-11-4 Mr J Davies (7) 94
4 010- SLEEPY RIVER 205 (G,S) J J O'Neill 6-11-4 R McGrath (5) —
5 035- DOUBLE AGENT 194 (G,S) J Howard Johnson 4-11-4 A Dobbin 93
6 1122 FIVE FLAGS 7 (CD,F,G,S) Mrs S Smith 8-11-3 R Guest 97
7 53-1 TOBY BROWN 62 (G) D Nicholson 4-11-1 A Maguire 102
8 4F6 PRUSSIA 6 (V,BF,F) W Clay 6-10-9 R Johnson 108
9 135 JUBRAN 28 (F) J Dodds 11-10-6 G Bradley 106
10 42-4 PONTEVEDRA 19 (D,G) K Morgan 4-10-6 A S Smith 93
11 010- ROTHARI 229 (G) B Rothwell 5-10-4 R Supple 88
12 4P3 NOCATCHIM 19 (V,F,G,S) K Morgan 8-10-2 P Morris (5) 90
13 21-6 TEL E THON 24 (V,F,G) Miss C Caroe 10-10-1 I Lawrence 84

3-1 Toby Brown, 11-2 Five Flags, 6-1 Phar Smoother, 8-1 Bourdonner, 10-1 Jackson Park, Sleepy River, Jubran, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: K Bailey, 14 winners from 48 runners, 29.2%; D Nicholson, 7 from 26, 26.9%; C Brooks, 4 from 16, 25.0%; Mrs M Reveley, 24 from 103, 23.3%; M Pipe, 16 from 69, 23.2%; T Easterby, 3 from 14, 21.4%.

JOCKEYS: G Bradley, 9 winners from 24 rides, 37.5%; N Williamson, 21 from 81, 25.9%; J Titley, 6 from 30, 20.0%; R Johnson, 11 from 56, 19.6%; A Maguire, 13 from 78, 16.7%; S Wynne, 3 from 18, 16.7%; P Niven, 19 from 119, 16.0%; F Leahy, 8 from 53, 15.1%.

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER

12.20 Ivor's Deed. 12.50 Curzon Street. 1.20 Blue Lamp. 1.50 Pinup. 2.25 Largesse. 2.55 African-Pard. 3.25 Rubamma. 3.55 Palacegate Touch.

GOING: STANDARD SIS
DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

12.20 ROTHER HANDICAP (Div I: £1,649: 7f) (11)

1 0000 ROBO MAGIC 26 (C,F) L Montague Hall 5-10-0 M Harfield (7) 6
2 5620 ROYAL CARLTON 232 (CD) G L Moore 5-9-10 M Batchelor (5) 2
3 0000 BAGSHOT 7 (C,D,G,S) G L Moore 6-9-4 Cheryl Bone (7) 5
4 4002 EVERSET 17 (B,C,D,F,G) A Bailey 9-9-0 J Bosley (7) 1
5 1000 IVOR'S DEED 17 (D,F,G) Gay Kelleway 4-8-12 J Wilkinson (5) 4
6 2081 ITALIAN SYMPHONY 12 (V) P Evans 3-8-11 A McCarthy (5) 11
7 0-50 PRIX DE CLERMONT 43 G Lewis 3-8-2 D Sweeney 9
8 0545 KOSEVO 15 M Meagher 3-7-10 P Fessey 3
9 0000 AEGEAN SOUND 15 (B) K Ivory 3-7-10 Martin Dwyer 7
10 3060 WHIZZ KID 23 (B,F) J Bridger 3-7-10 P Doe (5) 8
11 1004 ARNIE 97 (F,S) J Poulton 5-7-10 R Brisland (7) 10

3-1 Everset, Italian Symphony, 9-2 Kosevo, 7-1 Royal Carlton, 10-1 others.

12.50 BOOKER HANDICAP (£2,492: 1m 2f) (11)

1 5553 MASTER BEVELED 7 (C,F,S) P Evans 7-9-12 A McCarthy (7) 6
2 1200 RIGHTY HO 46 (V,D,G,S) P Walwyn 3-9-10 T Sprake 3
3 4230 CURZON STREET 49 D Elsworth 3-9-9 S Drowne 1
4 0000 MUHANDIS 3 (V,F) G L Moore 4-9-4 Candy Morris 10
5 0004 NEWBRIDGE BOY 9 M Meagher 4-8-12 P Fessey (3) 2
6 0004 BRISKA 16 (F) R Akehurst 3-8-8 W Ryan 9
7 0500 HAYDN JAMES 14 (B) P Harris 3-8-7 A Culhane 4
8 250- ROWLANDSONS CHARM 335 (C) G Sanders 4-8-5 J Quinn 7
9 6020 MAGAZINE GAP 52 Pat Mitchell 4-8-4 Amanda Sanders 11
10 0045 MULTI FRANCHISE 21 (CD,F) R Flower 4-7-13 Martin Dwyer 5
11 -040 MISKIN HEIGHTS 21 K Burke 3-7-10 P Doe (7) 8

7-2 Master Beveled, 5-1 Curzon Street, 13-2 Newbridge Boy, 10-1 others.

1.20 ARUN MAIDEN STAKES (£2,294: 6f) (12)

1 0600 DURABLE GEORGE 10 J Bridger 3-9-0 J Quinn 1
2 5000 LOGIE PERT LAD 7 J Bridger 5-9-0 F Norton 2
3 005 AMELIA JANE 28 L Montague Hall 3-8-11 Dane O'Neill 3
4 5440 BLUE LAMP 63 M Jarvis 3-8-11 R Cochrane 4
5 0600 CHIEF'S LADY 103 J S Moore 5-8-11 P Cleary (7) 12
6 -060 JUNIE 169 T Mills 3-8-11 Lisa Hackett (7) 9
7 0000 KILMEENA LADY 7 J Fox 3-8-11 S Drowne 10
8 0640 OHNONOTAGAIN 26 N Tinkler 5-8-11 C Lowther (3) 5
9 620- SHARAZAMATAZ 458 K Ivory 3-8-11 Martin Dwyer 7
10 000- SHARP MOVE 349 B Pearce 5-8-11 Leesa Long 8
11 6000 SURE TO DREAM 30 R Phillips 4-8-11 R Perham 6
12 0000 WILD NETTLE 7 J Fox 3-8-11 D O'Shea 11

2-1 Blue Lamp, 3-1 Ohnonotagain, 7-2 Amelia Jane, 7-1 Sharazamataz, 9-1 others.

1.50 MEDWAY CLAIMING STAKES
(2-Y-O: £2,294: 6f) (14)

1 0000 ALGEBRA 10 R Hannon 9-3 Dane O'Neill 14
2 1600 LEGAL LARK 6 (D,F) P Howling 9-3 A Clark 12
3 00 OPENING NIGHT 16 R Simpson 8-11 M Gallagher 5
4 2029 JUST ANOTHER TIME 45 J Berry 8-9 C Lowther (3) 10
5 00 MAYLAN 19 D Hyde 8-8 A McGlone 3
6 56 OK BABE 23 J Akehurst 8-8 D Biggs 13
7 0008 THE DRUIDESS 7 (B) G Bravery 8-4 P Doe (7) 7
8 5000 DONEGAL SEAN 12 N Callaghan 8-3 S Drowne 11
9 0000 FAST FRANC 19 (B,D,S) S C Williams 8-1 Martin Dwyer 1
10 0400 JONATHAN'S GIRL 43 J Bridger 8-0 P Fessey (3) 8
11 5054 PINUP 41 C Dwyer 8-0 J Quinn 6
12 0400 ABSTONE PET GIRL 7 P Evans 7-12 A McCarthy (7) 9
13 0000 MILJA'S MAGIC 38 K Ivory 7-12 N Adams 4
14 00 MISS LADY LYDIA 103 J Poulton 7-10 F Norton 2

7-2 Just Another Time, 9-2 Pinup, 6-1 Ok Babe, Fast Franc, 7-1 Algebra, Donegal Sean, 8-1 Legal Lark, 16-1 others.

2.25 BRIAN GOULDING CONDITIONS STAKES
(£3,306: 1m 4f) (8)

1 3011 RAISE A PRINCE 19 (D,S) S Woods 4-9-7 W Ryan 8
2 5100 EDAN HEIGHTS 54 (E,D,F,S) S Dow 5-9-2 P Doe (7) 5
3 0251 FILIAL 12 (CD,F) J Pearce 4-9-2 M Wigham 2
4 0201 NIGHT CITY 7 (CD,S) K Burke 6-9-2 D Sweeney (3) 4
5 2556 PRINCE DANZIG 90 (CD,F) D M-Smith 6-9-2 Dane O'Neill 3
6 5000 PRIVATE AUDIENCE 33 W Muir 4-9-2 Martin Dwyer 1
7 8151 LARGESSE 53 (E,D,G,S) John Berry 3-8-10 J F Egan 7
8 05 PRIMERO 17 A Barrow 3-8-10 S Drowne 6

3-1 Largesse, 7-2 Raise A Prince, 9-2 Filial, 5-1 Edan Heights, Night City, 7-1 Prince Danzig, 25-1 Private Audience, Primero.

2.55 BOOKER FOODSERVICE HANDICAP
(Div II: £2,479: 1m 2f) (11)

1 0000 ETHBAAT 10 (F,G) M Heaton-Ellis 6-9-11 A Clark 4
2 3365 SWEET SUPPOSIN 24 (V,CD) C Dwyer 6-9-9 R Cochrane 9
3 0600 VERSATILITY 9 R Johnson Houghton 4-9-8 S Whitworth 8
4 0021 REHAAB 3 (V,CD,F) B Sanders 4-9-0 (6ex) A Whelan (3) 11
5 0004 PALISANDER 7 (E) S Dow 3-8-11 P Doe (7) 10
6 1202 GUESSTIMATION 37 (D,F,G,S) J Pearce 8-8-9 F Norton 6
7 1010 AFRICAN-PARD 63 (D,F,S) D Haydn Jones 5-8-6 S Drowne 2
8 4000 NORTHERN SAGA 37 C Drew 4-8-4 T Sprake 1
9 2000 GOLD CLIPPER 7 M Ryan 3-7-13 D Biggs 7
10 6305 COLOUR COUNSELLOR 17 (B,D,F) R Flower 4-7-10 J Quinn 5
11 0400 MASTER BOBBY 112 R Flower 3-7-10 J Lowe 3

11-4 Guesstimation, 5-1 African-Pard, 6-1 Rehaab, Sweet Supposin, 8-1 others.

3.25 E B F WYE MAIDEN STAKES
(2-Y-O: £3,159: 1m) (11)

1 00 BOLD LEGACY 6 W Muir 9-0 Martin Dwyer 8
2 0003 LONG ISLAND 12 R Hannon 9-0 Dane O'Neill 2
3 0040 NIGHT VIGIL 19 B Hills 9-0 M Hills 1
4 0000 RED RISK 131 P Harris 9-0 A Culhane 11
5 0043 RUBAMMA 27 P Walwyn 9-0 R Cochrane 9
6 SAMMY'S SHUFFLE R Flower 9-0 J Lowe 7
7 0 BATCHWORTH BELLE 23 E Wheeler 8-9 S Carson (7) 6
8 0 LITTLE CHARMER 21 R Rowe 8-9 S Whitworth 5
9 0 SOAP STONE 90 A Bailey 8-9 D Wright 3
10 SPECIAL PERSON P Mitchell 8-9 A Clark 10
11 00 TREASURE ISLAND 6 M Prescott 8-9 C Nutter 4

5-4 Rubamma, 3-1 Night Vigil, Long Island, 12-1 Treasure Island, 16-1 others

3.55 ROTHER APPRENTICE HANDICAP
(Div II: £1,649: 7f) (10)

1 0052 PALACEGATE TOUCH 7 (B,C,D) J Berry 7-9-11 C Lowther 4
2 0050 LANCASHIRE LEGEND 7 (E,CD) S Dow 4-9-7 P Doe (5) 10
3 330 FEEL NO FEAR 65 W Muir 4-9-4 Martin Dwyer 6
4 0660 CORNICHE QUEST 7 (D,F,S) M Channon 4-9-0 A Eddery (5) 7
5 0004 INVOCATION 17 (CD,F) G L Moore 10-8-12 A Whelan 1
6 0100 FRENCH GINGER 22 (D,F) L Lloyd-James 6-8-3 S Righton (5) 9
7 0680 SIZZLING 56 (F) R Hannon 5-8-1 P Dobbs (7) 5
8 6400 SUPERLAD 43 (F,S) J Bridger 5-7-10 P Fessey 8
9 0300 GREAT CHIEF 36 Bob Jones 4-7-10 Sammy Jones (7) 3
10 0000 LADYBOWER 71 J Poulton 5-7-10 R Brisland (7) 2

5-2 Palacegate Touch, 9-2 Invocation, 13-2 Corniche Quest, 10-1 others

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هكذا من الاصل

RUGBY UNION

Fitzpatrick beaten by knee injury

By Mark Souster

SEAN FITZPATRICK was yesterday ruled out of a New Zealand team because of injury for the first time in an illustrious international career that dates back to 1986 when he made his debut against France in Nantes. In the intervening years Fitzpatrick has only missed one international for the All Blacks — during the 1995 World Cup when he voluntarily stood down against Japan.

However, even 34-year-old Fitzpatrick's legendary healing powers have failed him. A knee injury, which forced him to stand down against Llanelli, the opening game of the All Blacks tour, means he misses the first international, against Ireland at Lansdowne Road on Saturday.

NEW ZEALAND

NEW ZEALAND: C Cullen (Manawatu), J Wilson (Otago), F Bunce (North Harbour), A Ieremia (Wellington), G Osborne (North Harbour). A Mehrtens (Canterbury), J Marshall (Canterbury, captain), C Dowd (Auckland), N Hewitt (Southland), O Brown (Auckland), I Jones (North Harbour), R Brooke (Auckland), T Randell (Otago), A Blowers (Auckland), Z Brooke (Auckland) Replacements: S McLeod (Waikato), J Preston (Wellington), J Kronfeld (Otago), C Riechelmann (Auckland), M Allen (Manawatu), A Oliver (Otago)

Fitzpatrick, who has 91 caps, said that it had been strange not hearing his name on the team sheet. "It was my decision," he said. "I'm just not 100 per cent right and I wouldn't want to jeopardise the team's chances of winning."

Norm Hewitt, the Southland hooker, replaces Fitzpatrick to start only his second international for New Zealand.

Justin Marshall assumes the captaincy in place of Fitzpatrick and the Canterbury scrum-half is partnered at half-back by his provincial colleague, Andrew Mehrtens, who is preferred to Carlos Spencer at fly-half. Josh Kronfeld is also omitted, with Andrew Blowers winning the open side berth.

As expected, Jonah Lomu, who made a try-scoring return for New Zealand against Wales A at Pontypridd on Tuesday night, is not being rushed back to international duty after 15 months out with a serious kidney disorder. He will continue his rehabilitation in the midweek team. Glenn Osbourne is on the left wing.

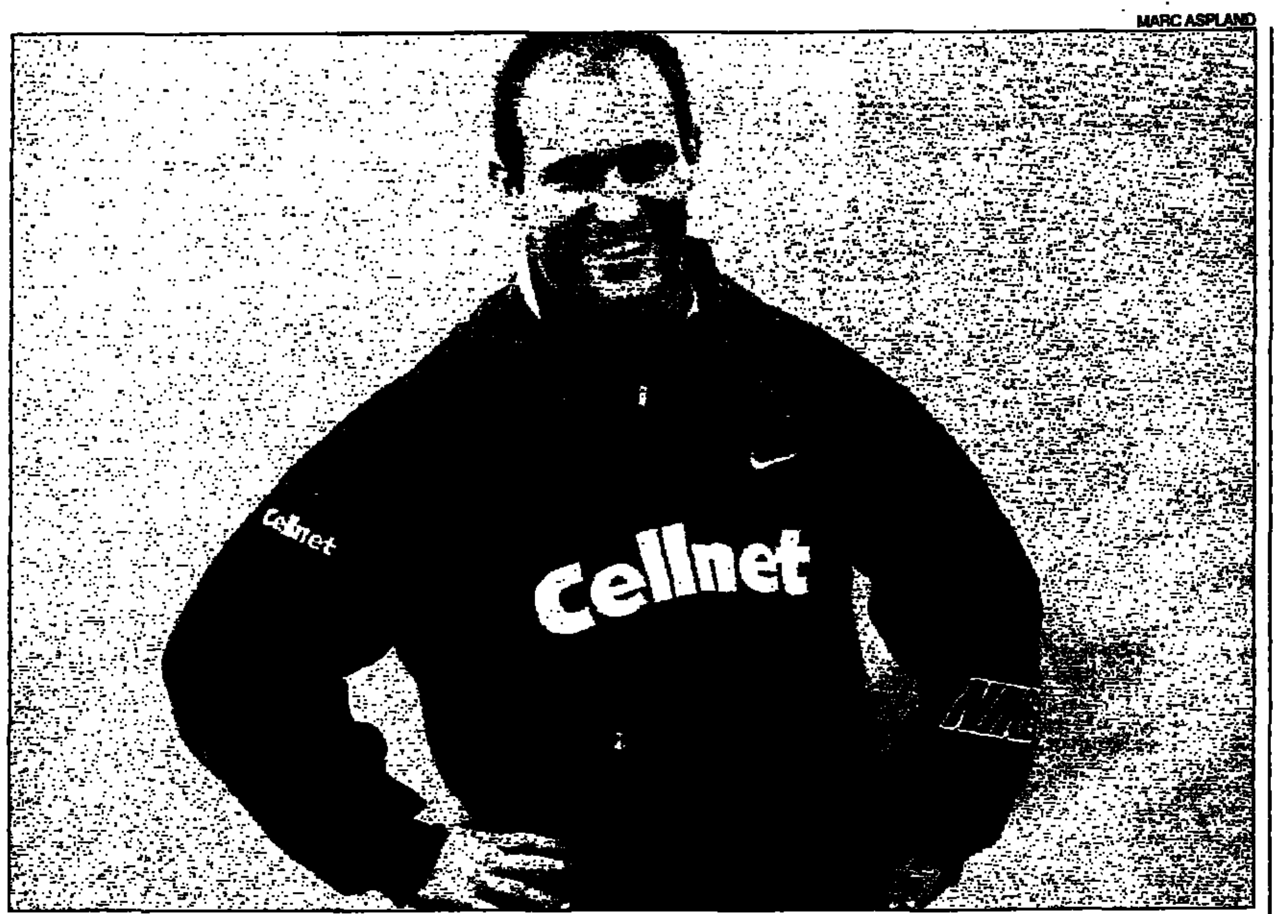
Although the Irish public will be denied seeing one of the sport's greats, Fitzpatricks' absence will not noticeably weaken the All Blacks.

"There is no such thing as a bad All Black player," Pat Whelan, the manager said. "We learned first hand on the Ireland development tour last summer how good Hewitt is. He is experienced and an impressive player. Losing the captain is always a regret but Fitzpatrick's absence won't in any way make things easier for Ireland."

Keith Wood, the Ireland hooker and captain who would have been Fiztpatrick's adversary, rates his country's chances of winning as "really, really slim." He said: "I am not a betting man but the realistic odds of us winning must be 20-1. There is no point in us ignoring the strength of the All Blacks. A very good season for us would be wins over Canada, Italy, Scotland and Wales."

The fact that Ireland had four members in the successful British Isles tour party to South Africa has raised, Wood believes, unrealistic expectations among Irish supporters. "Four players can't win a match," he said. "Every single year we set our goals too high."

MARC ASPLAND



King, the new England fly half, during the training session yesterday at the Bank of England ground

Young pretenders ready for stand-off

David Hands on the promising fly halves who will be in opposition at Twickenham

The destiny of the Cook Cup, to be contested between England and Australia at Twickenham on Saturday, will lie in the hands of two fresh-faced fly halves with scarcely a breath of international experience between them. Alex King, who played *a final quarter for England in* Argentina during the summer, will be opposed by Australia's only debutant, Elton Flatley.

Flatley, 20, was named yesterday in an Australia team showing three changes from the one that was beaten 18-16 by Argentina last Saturday. He will be joined by the experienced John Langford at lock and the familiar figure of Willie Ofahengaue in the back row, who will be playing his first international for two years, in place of Troy Coker.

The introduction of Flatley, the latest in a long line of rugby talent produced by Nudgee College in Brisbane, may be the result of injury to David Knox, but has been long predicted since he stepped, as an 18-year-old, into the Queensland team against Otago last year.

Whether Flatley will prove to be the long-term replace*ment for Michael Lynagh*, who retired in 1995, remains to be seen, but this represents an opportunity for him as great as that for King. He turned down a substantial offer from the Canterbury Bankstown rugby league club just before the tour began and will benefit in his first international from the experience around him provided by George Gregan and Tim Horan. In that respect, King will profit too, from the assistance of Kyran Bracken and Mike Catt, though, as he pointed out yesterday: "I have the ninth-most experience in the England side".

News of his selection on Sunday evening came as a timely morale-booster for King after Wasps had been beaten by Brive in the Heineken Cup. Since he emerged two years ago from the unlikely surroundings of Bristol University, his poten*tial has been obvious and* his decision to postpone an economics course and sign professional forms has confirmed his standing.

"It takes time, but my experience, confidence and general skills have grown," King, 22, said. "Once you play with and against the best in England and Europe — people like Lynagh, Catt, Stransky — it gives you the belief that you can hold your own at that level. I loved it at university, playing rugby with my mates, and I hope that I can complete my degree at some stage.

"But it's great to be part of the England set-up now — new captain, new coach, new ideas. The game has changed from the days when Rob *Andrew and Stuart* Barnes were competing for the No 10 shirt, the playmaker needs to be able to kick as well as run and pass. There are so many options now and working with Dave Alred, who has so many ideas about kicking, has helped me."

King played against Brive after keyhole surgery on his knee, which robbed him of an element of pace though not of the good impression he had already created on Clive Woodward, the England coach. "Playing for my country in Argentina was fantastic," King said, "but, since everyone is available for selection now, this game will feel like my first proper cap. Clive wants us to play heads up, eyes open — I hope we will."

AUSTRALIA

S Larkham; B N Tune, T J Horan, P W Howard, J W Roff; E Flatley, G M Gregan; R L L Harry, M A Foley, A Heath, J Langford, J A Eales (captain), O Finegan, B J Robinson, V Ofahengaue. Replacements: M Hardy, S J Payne, D J Wilson, M Cockbain, A T Blades, M Caputo.

Oxford find weight of experience too much to bear

Oxford University 17
Major Stanley's XV 45

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

THE timeless quality of university rugby survives at Iffley Road but the changing face of the game was portrayed in the quality of the XV assembled by the trustees of Major R. V. Stanley's XV. Each of them plays for money and the *difference in strength and* experience gave the students of Oxford University a thankless task yesterday.

For 50 minutes the Dark Blues stayed in touch with distinguished opponents, but they saw so little of the ball that their prospects were slight and they lost their shape as they tired.

It was, however, 26 minutes before Stanley's XV gathered themselves sufficiently to put points on the board, by which time Nwume had sent Booth to the line. Urged on by Rees, the visitors *settled into* their stride and scored three tries before the interval.

Sadly, a rash of replacements, on both sides, destroyed continuity. Spicer, surprised to find a rebound coming his way, sent Maher *on a 40-metre run* to the line and the hard-working Orsler helped to create Pollock's try. These, though, were no more than gestures as Green and his colleagues plundered their way forward for a regular supply of tries.

SCORERS: Oxford University: Tries: Booth (22min), Maher (44), Pollock (65). Conversion: Kelaher. Major Stanley's XV: Tries: Clarke 2 (26, 41), D Hopley (33), Kinsey (40), Green (48), Scrivener (59), Whitford (77). Conversions: Rees 3, Hull 2.
SCORING SEQUENCE (Oxford University first): 7-0, 7-7, 7-12, 7-19 (half-time), 7-26, 12-26, 12-33, 12-38, 17-38, 17-45.
OXFORD UNIVERSITY: *R Maher (St Ignatius, Sydney and University); N Booth (Lytham St Anne's and Worcester), N Larsen (Hilton College, Durban and Lincoln; rep: G Lewis, Cheadle Hulme and St Anne's, 43min), B Rudge (St Edward's, Liverpool and Keble; rep: J Bursell, Millfield and New, 77), R Pollock (Diocesan College, Cape Town and Keble); *T Jensen (St Edmund's, Canberra and St Anne's; rep: S Ure, Leeds GS and Keble, 44), *N Hogan (Terenure College, Dublin and Merton); R Lehner (Jesuit College, Sacramento and St Anne's; rep: J Sharples, Sydney C of E GS and St Edmund Hall, 43), M Collard (King's, Paramatta and St Anne's; rep: M Parker, *Sedbergh and Christ Church*, 55), A Reuben (Solihull and University), *T Eisenhauer (St Ignatius, Sydney and St Anne's; rep: H Nwume, Nottingham HS and Brasenose, 13-25), S van Reenen (Paul Roos Gymnasium, Stellenbosch and St Anne's), *M Orsler (King's, Canterbury and Christ Church; rep: C Lavin, King Edward VII, Lytham and St Edmund Hall, 72), D Kelaher (St Joseph's, Sydney and St Cross), *K Spicer (Clongowes Wood, Dublin and St Anne's).
MAJOR R V STANLEY'S XV: P Hull (Bristol and England); P Hopley (Wasps), D Hopley (Wasps and England; rep: N Marvel, London Welsh, 56), T Whitford (Richmond), J Fallon (Richmond); G Rees (Wasps and Canada; rep: J Riondet, London Welsh, 66), T Nu'uali'itia (West Hartlepool and Western Samoa; rep: C Wright, Harlequins, 49); I Dunston (Wasps), C Olney (Saracens; rep: T Leota, Wasps and Western Samoa, 49), J Probyn (Bedford and England; rep: G Pearce, Aylesbury and England, 40), J Etheridge (St Claude; rep: S Galinas, Wasps, 66), R Kinsey (Wasps), R Phillips (London Welsh and Wales; rep: J Green, Barking, 40), L Jones (London Welsh; rep: S Cassidy, West Hartlepool, 37), B Clarke (Richmond and England; rep: P Scrivener, Wasps, 55).
Referee: C White (Gloucestershire).
* denotes Blue

Cardiff give Botham new chance to realise his potential

By Our Sports Staff

LIAM BOTHAM has joined Cardiff on a permanent basis after being given a free transfer by West Hartlepool. The 20-year-old centre, who chose rugby rather than *following* his famous father into cricket, despite early success with Hampshire, is determined to succeed at the Arms Park.

"I am totally committed to Cardiff," he said yesterday. "They have opened my eyes to *what professional* rugby is all about."

Botham got a chance at Cardiff as a result of a meeting between the club's millionaire benefactor, Peter Thomas, and Ian Botham at the Ryder Cup match in Valderamma. After watching him playing in two trial matches, Terry Holmes, the Cardiff coach, has seen enough potential to offer him terms.

Peter Manning, the club manager, said: "We are pleased to have signed Liam. *He has a good attitude and is* a very determined, competitive person who wants to make it as a professional rugby player."

Llanelli have reluctantly paid the £10,000 fine imposed by the organisers of the Heineken Cup — more than three weeks late. The financial penalty was the outcome of a bad-tempered pool match against Pau in France on September 13.

Llanelli at first refused to pay, putting European Rugby Cup Limited in the dock instead and demanding an explanation of what rules had been breached and from which disciplinary charge the fine arose. Pau settled their account immediately, as did Brive and Pontypridd, who were both fined £30,000 — £15,000 of that suspended — after a violent encounter 24 hours later.

Llanelli, though, stood defiant while the club's solicitors sought to clarify the competition's rule book and disciplinary procedures. At the time, *Llanelli* were experiencing severe financial difficulties. They sold their Stradey Park ground to the Welsh Rugby Union for £1.25 million and received £75,000 from Bath for their British Isles wing, Ieuan Evans.

A *cash-flow problem has* now eased considerably, thanks to a share issue which has brought in more than £500,000. But Llanelli have always maintained that their financial problems were not an issue.

"We have made it plain that there is a need to reschedule the disciplinary procedure before next year's competition," Stuart Gallacher, the club's chief executive, said.

Scotland selection hampered by injury

By Mark Souster

WHEREAS England have, by *design*, *rung wholesale* changes to their team to play Australia on Saturday, the shape of the Scotland to meet the Wallabies the following week at Murrayfield is, by default, radically different from that which lost to France *at Parc des Princes in March*. Predominantly because of injury, only seven players remain from that game.

Four new caps were announced in Edinburgh yesterday: James Craig's promotion was widely flagged after a succession of impressive try-*scoring performances for* Glasgow in the Heineken Cup, but the inclusion, in the pack, of Adam Roxburgh, Scott Murray and Grant McKelvey is surprising. There is also a new captain in Andy Nicol, of Bath, who leads in the absence of the Rob Wainwright, who is not fit.

Nicol, no stranger to injury himself, as his eight caps over five years bear witness, successfully captained Scotland on their summer tour to South Africa. The longstanding injuries to Wainwright, Tom *Smith and Doddie Weir have* deprived Scotland of three players who made significant contributions to the British Lions.

Their absence will be sorely felt, given the shortage of experienced replacements. McKelvey, of Watsonians, is the new hooker, Murray, rather than Andy Reed, partners Stewart Campbell, at lock, and Roxburgh the Kelso captain, fills Wainwright's position.

Richie Dixon, the coach, described as the most difficult *decision taken was the one to* play Nicol at scrum half, rather than Gray Armstrong or Bryan Redpath.

SCOTLAND (v Australia, November 22): R Shepherd (Melrose); J Craig (West of Scotland), A Stanger (Hawick), A Tait (Newcastle), K Logan (Wasps); G Townsend (Northampton), A Nicol (Bath, captain). D Hilton (Bath), G McKelvey (Watsonians), M Stewart (Northampton), S Campbell (Dundee HSFP), S Murray (Bedford), A Roxburgh (Kelso), I Smith (Moseley), E Peters (Bath) Replacements: C Joiner (Leicester), C Chalmers (Melrose), G Armstrong (Newcastle), A Reed (Wasps), G Graham (Newcastle), G Bulloch (West of Scotland).

Lacroix and Cabannes called up by France

FRANCE have kept faith with *with Thierry Lacroix and Lau*rent Cabannes, of Harlequins, for the match against South Africa in Lyons on Saturday. The return of Fabien Galthié is the one change to the side that beat Argentina 32-27 in the Latin Cup.

South Africa make one change from the side that beat Italy 62-31 last weekend as Justin Swart, the full back, has injured a hamstring. No replacement has been named.

FRANCE: J-L Sadourny (Colomiers); L Leflamand (Bourgoin), C Lamaison (Brive), *S Glas (Bourgoin), P Saint-Andre* (Gloucester, captain); T. Lacroix (Harlequins), F Galthié (Colomiers); C Califano (Toulouse), M Dal Maso (Agen), F Tournaire (Toulouse), F Pelous (Toulouse), O Brouzet (Bègles-Bordeaux), P Benetton (Agen), L Cabannes (Harlequins), A Benazzi (Agen).

SOUTH AFRICA: A N Other; J Small (Western Province), A Snyman (Northern Transvaal), R Muir (Natal), P Rossouw *(Western Province); H Honiball (Natal)*, J van der Westhuizen (Northern Transvaal); O du Randt (Free State), J Dalton (Gauteng Lions), A Garvey (Natal), K Otto (Northern Transvaal), M Andrews (Natal), J Erasmus (Free State), A Venter (Free State), G Teichmann (Natal, captain).

EXCLUSIVE OFFER THE TIMES

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CHANGING TIMES

FOR THE RECORD

FOOTBALL

International match

BRAZIL (2) 3 WALES (0) 0
Zinho 32 30,000
Rivaldo 36
Rodrigo 50

WORLD CUP: Asian zone: Group A: China 1 Kuwait 0 (at Beijing); Qatar 0 Saudi Arabia 1 (at Doha, Saudi Arabia qualify for finals, Iran meet Japan in a play-off).

Tuesday's late results

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: Third division: Cardiff 0 Scunthorpe 0

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: First division: Ayr 1 Falkirk 2

FA TROPHY: Second qualifying round: Replays: Leigh RMI 1 Radcliffe 0; Great Harwood 3 Stourbridge 1; Bilston 2 Witton Albion 2 (aet; score after 90min 2-2; Bilston win 6-5 on pens); Harrogate Town 0 Workington 0 (aet; Harrogate win 5-4 on pens); Aldershot Town 3 Carshalton 0; Bashley 2 Walton and Hersham 0

RYMAN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Chesham 3 Yeading 1; St Albans 2 Bishop's Stortford 1 Second division: Barking 0 Horsham 1; Bracknell 0 Edgware 0; Hungerford 2 Braintree 3, Tooting and Mitcham 2 Marlow 0 Third division: Corinthian Casuals 1 Flackwell Heath 1 Guardian Insurance Cup: Second round: Hitchin 4 Wealdstone 4

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Southern division: Tonbridge Angels 0 Fisher 2

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Altrincham 1 Lancaster 0, Chorley 1 Hyde 5, Frickley 2 Bishop Auckland 3, Runcorn 0 Barrow 1 First division: Flixton 0 Droylsden 1. Stocksbridge PS 5 Lincoln 1. Cup: Second-round replay: Congleton 3 Winsford 2, Marine 2 Accrington Stanley 0 Unifilla First division Cup: First round: Matlock Town 1 Eastwood Town 2

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Crystal Palace 1 Chelsea 0; *Millwall 1 Queens Park Rangers 0 West* Ham 0 Southampton 2.

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Everton 0 Leeds 1 First division: Coventry 4 Manchester City 2; Grimsby 1 Leicester 0; Notts County 2 Middlesbrough 4 Second division: Bradford 4 Burnley 1; Rotherham 3 Wrexham 0.

COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Cove 1 Godalming and Guilford 4, Reading 2 Sandhurst 1

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Faversham 2 Swanley Furness 1, Herne Bay 3 Tunbridge Wells 2 Slade Green 0 Beckenham 1. Thamesmead 0 VCD 0.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE. First division: Hassocks 1 Langney Sports 2; Pagham 1 Wick 3, Redhill 1 Mile Oak 2

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Coleshill 2 Massey Ferguson 1

MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: O'Brien Butchers Premier division Cup: Milton Keynes 0 Beaconsfield 3; St Margaretsbury 4 Biggleswade 4. Waltham Abbey 1 Bedford 2; Letchworth 4 Brimsdown 2; Royston 1 Barkingside 3 Hillingdon 1 London Colney 1; Welwyn Garden 3 Hanwell 0; Harefield 2 Arlesey 2; Haringey 5 Langford 2.

INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Knypersley V 1 Shifnal T 0; Sandwell 2 Bridgnorth 4; Willenhall 1 Pelsall V 1. Invitation Cup: Atherstone 4 Kings Heath 0 Anstey Nomads 2 Kirby Muxloe 4. Postponed: Thicale v Evesham.

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Postponed. Odd Down v Westbury

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bury Town 1 Watton 2; Clacton 1 Halstead 6, Gorleston 0 Fakenham 0; Harwich and Parkeston 2 Tiptree 2; Lowestoft 1 Great Yarmouth 3; Newmarket 4 Diss 0; Sudbury Wanderers 3 Woodbridge 2; Warboys 1 Ely 1.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Atherton LR 3 St Helens 2; Maine Road 0 Chadderton 3; Nantwich A Kidsgrove A; Newcastle Town 1 Salford 1; Warrington 3 Rossendale 0 Postponed: Blackpool Rovers v Haslingden.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Presidents Cup: Third round: Glapwell 1 Arnold 3; Glasshoughton Wel. 4 Tadcaster 1; Hucknall 3 Rossington Main 1; North Ferriby 4 Yorkshire Amateurs 0; Thackley 3 Garforth 2.

LEAGUE OF WALES: Cup: First round, second leg: Caersws 1 Haverfordwest 2 (4-4 on agg, Caersws win on away goals).

FAI HARP LAGER CUP: Semi-final, first leg: *Home Farm 0 Sligo 0*

NATIONWIDE GOLD CUP: Semi-final: Glenavon 3 Crusaders 1

THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: First round: Torquay 3 Leyton Orient 3; Exeter 4 Colchester 2; Croydon Athletic 2 Northampton 5; Gloucester 0 Southampton 6; Plymouth Argyle 4 Hereford 2; Derby 0 Blackpool 2; Fulham 3 Abingdon Town 1

GERMAN LEAGUE: Bayer Leverkusen 4 Cologne 0; Borussia Dortmund 0 Bayern Munich 2.

SPANISH LEAGUE: *Atlético Madrid* 1 Salamanca 1

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Atlanta 89 Seattle 87, Cleveland 101 Chicago 80; Miami 101 Sacramento 82, New York 93 Denver 90; San Antonio 93 Minnesota 92; LA Lakers 118 Dallas 96; Vancouver 119 LA Clippers 113

EUROPEAN CUP: Group E: Milan 102 London Towers 86

FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

European under-21 championship
Qualifying play-off
First leg
Greece v England
(at Iraklion, Crete, 5.0)

THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: First round: Reading v Oxford United, Histon v Gravesend and Northfleet

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Premier League Trophy: Under-16: Staffordshire v Worcestershire (at Chase Town, 7.15). Fuji *Film Trophy*: Third round: South Notts v Walsall (at Kimberley Town, 7.15); Wolverhampton v Bromsgrove and Droitwich (at *Wolverhampton Casuals*) South West Counties Cup: First round: Under-19: *Dorset v Herefordshire* (at Sturminster Newton United, 2.15)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Uni-ball Trophy: London Leopards v Birmingham Bullets (7.0)

BOXING: British Bantamweight championship: N Wilders v N Parry (at Bradford).

ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Newcastle *Cobras v Nottingham Panthers (7.0)*.

SNOOKER: Liverpool Victoria UK championship (at Preston).

TENNIS: National championships (at Telford).

BOWLS

JERSEY: European indoor team championship (men's and women's teams play alternate rounds): Pairs: Women: Eighth round: Ireland (M Wilkinson and M Johnston) bt England (M Jacklin and N Shaw) 19-18; Jersey (C Syvret and J Jones) bt Israel (S Kantor and A Rubin) 24-17; Guernsey (K Renouf and A Simon) bt Wales (A Sutherland and J Ackland) 22-16 Men: Ninth round: Wales (D Harding and J Greenslade) bt Ireland (R Battersby and G McCloy) 21-9; Israel (Y Lieberthal and G Kaminsky) bt England (B Morley and D Holt) 24-20; Jersey (L Nixon and T Mallett) bt Guernsey (G Pitschou and P Ingrouille) 28-17 Women: Tenth round: England bt Israel 24-14; Guernsey bt Jersey 23-13; Ireland bt Wales 22-19 Triples: Women: Eighth round: England (S Rickman, B Alderson and D Hankin) bt Israel (N Fix, T Karnzet and *R Kusman*) 20-13; *Ireland* (I Bell, D Baird and P Nolan) bt Wales (L Evans, W Morris and A Denton) 16-13; Guernsey (J Baglin, J Nicolle and C Ingrouille) bt Jersey (K Harman, S Syvret and J Lowery) 20-17. Men: Ninth round: Ireland (I McClure, B Thompson and J Ross) bt Guernsey (N Mollet, R Brehaut and B Simon) 26-7; Wales (G Williams, M Kent and M Anstey) bt Israel (M Stange, C Silberstin and Y Bekier) 30-13; England (M Bantock, M King and G Harlow) bt Jersey (A Syvret, P Le Long and I Hodgetts) 26-8. Women: Tenth round: England *bt Jersey 23-13, Wales bt Israel 19-12; Ire*land bt Guernsey 23-13.

CRICKET

RAWALPINDI: Tour match (second day of tour): West Indians 464 (C L Hooper 146, S L Campbell 76, P V Simmons 73); Abdul Qadeer Khan XI 142-1.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Colorado 2 Detroit 0; Philadelphia 1 Ottawa 0; Toronto 5 Chicago 2; Phoenix 5 Tampa Bay 2; Los Angeles 8 Vancouver 2.

SUPERLEAGUE: Manchester Storm 2 Sheffield Steelers 5.

RUGBY UNION

CLUB MATCH: Oxford University 17 Major Stanley's XV 38.

TOUR MATCH: Wales A 9 New Zealand XV 51 (at Pontypridd)

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Combined Services 33 Barbarians 40 (at US Portsmouth)

SAILING

WHITBREAD ROUND THE WORLD RACE: Second leg: Cape Town to Fremantle: Positions (at 12.00 GMT yesterday, *with miles to Fremantle*): 1 Swedish Match (Swe) 3,736.2; 2, Innovation Kvaerner (Nor) 3,961.3; 3, Toshiba (US) 4,037.4; 4, BrunelSunergy (Hol) 4,124.4; 5, Merit Cup (Monaco) 4,126.8; 6, EF Language (Swe) 4,130.4; 7, Chessie Racing (US) 4,138.7; 8, Silk Cut (GB) 4,139.4; 9, EF Education (Swe) 4,188.8.

SNOOKER

PRESTON: *Liverpool Victoria UK championship*: First round: D Dale (Wales) bt A Burden (Eng) 6-5; W Thorne (Eng) bt P McCullagh (Eng) 6-2 P Lines (Eng) bt J Michie (Eng) 6-5, J Read (Eng) bt M Judge (Ire) 6-3 M Stevens (Wales) bt J Woodman (Eng) 6-3; S Storey (Eng) bt E Henderson (Scot) 6-1.

SQUASH

KUALA LUMPUR: Men's world team championship: Pool A: England 3 Germany 0 (England names first: S Parke bt S Frenz 9-0, 9-3, 9-2; D Harris bt O Kowalski 9-2, 9-3, 9-3, C Walker bt F Possi 9-3, 9-7, *10-8); Canada 3 Pakistan 0. Pool B: Finland* 2 Wales 1 (Wales names first: A Gough lost to J Raumolin 9-3, 5-9, 7-9, 7-9; D Evans bt J Kyttanen 9-6, 9-2, 9-0; G Davies lost to V Sietonen 1-9, 9-5, 7-9, 4-9); Australia 3 Egypt 0. Pool C: South Africa 3 Spain 0; New Zealand 2 France 1. Pool D: Sweden 3 Scotland 0 (Scotland names first: M Heath lost to A Thoren 4-9, 4-9, 2-9; S Cowie lost to D Forslund 10-9, 3-9, 1-9, 6-9; A Thomson lost to F Johnson 9-2, 9-3, 9-3); Malaysia 3 Argentina 0. Pool E: Holland 3 Singapore 0; Switzerland 3 Denmark 0 Pool F: *Ireland 3 Hong Kong 0 (Ireland names first*: D Ryan bt A Faheem Khan 9-1, 9-2, 9-4; M Collins bt J Lee 10-9, 9-2, 9-2; P Foster bt W Wai Hang 9-6, 10-8, 10-8). Pool H: Austria 3 Brazil 0. Pool G: Italy 3 *Portugal* 0. Pool H: United States 2 Japan 1; Kuwait 2 Norway 1.

TENNIS

TELFORD: Guardian Direct British national championships: *Men*: First round: D Crawley (Norfolk) bt N Watts (Wiltshire) 7-5, *7-6, S Dickson (Cheshire) bt G Henderson* (Yorkshire) 5-7, 6-4, 6-1; A Parmar (Hertfordshire) bt N Gould (Avon) 6-4, 6-2; A Mackin (West of Scotland) bt D Ward (Essex) 6-3, 7-5; J Delgado (Warwickshire) bt D Draper (Northants) 6-3, 3-6, 6-3; D Lobb (Hampshire) bt I Bates (Hampshire) 7-6, 7-6. A Richardson (Lincolnshire) bt D Sherwood (Yorkshire) 7-6, 7-6; T Henman (Oxfordshire) bt N Weal (Hampshire) 6-4, 5-7, 6-1; C Bennett (Hampshire) bt P Robinson (Northants) 6-3, 6-2. Second round: D Sapsford (Surrey) bt P Hand (Berkshire) 6-2, 6-4; T Spinks (Norfolk) bt O Freelove (Kent) 6-4, 6-3; L Milligan (Middlesex) bt Crawley 6-2, 6-4; C Wilkinson (Hampshire) bt Dickson 6-3, 6-3. Women: First round: C Carter (Nottinghamshire) bt L Naqushbandi (Essex) 6-2, 6-2; J Pullin (Sussex) bt J Osmen (*Sussex*) 6-2, 6-2; L Latimer (Warwickshire) bt M Wainwright (Essex) 6-4, 6-0; S Lydon (Somerset) bt L Perkins (Durham and Cleveland) 7-6, 6-3; K Thomas (South Wales) bt J Hart (Middlesex) 6-3, 6-0; N Payne (North of Scotland) bt N Woodhouse (Norfolk) 6-2, 6-2; H Matthews (Berkshire) bt H Reesby (Nottinghamshire) 6-2, 6-3; L Jelfs (Oxfordshire) bt L Ogan (Warwickshire) 6-2, 6-7, 7-5.

PHILADELPHIA: Advanta women's championship: First round (US unless stated): A Huber (Ger) bt I Majoli (Cro) 6-3, 1-6, 6-3; A *Sánchez Vicario (Sp) bt Y Basuki (Indo)* 6-2, 6-0; C Martínez (Sp) bt S Cacic 6-3, 6-1; B Schultz-McCarthy (Hol) bt S Taylor (US) 6-2, 6-2; I Spirlea (Rom) bt V Williams (US) 6-3, 6-2.

POOLS DIVIDENDS

LITTLEWOODS: Treble chance: 24pts £43,404.05, 23 £1,488.15, 22 £83.70, 21 £27.05. Half-time result 22pts £8,048.40. Four draws: £42.25, Nine homes: £20.45, *Five aways: £19.85.*

VERNONS: Treble chance: 24pts £203,273.00, 23 £1,209.15, 22 £112.40

ZETTERS: Treble chance: 24pts £40,947.05, 23 £303.65, 22 £15.05, 21 £3.05. Four draws: £53.40. Eight homes: £9.20 Four aways: £24.60. Three draws: £34.75. Fair five: £41.10 Lucky numbers: 26 38 8 5 21 19.

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RUGBY LEAGUE

Australia struggle with back injuries

By Christopher Irvine

GREAT BRITAIN reported a clean bill of health yesterday for the deciding match of the British Gas series at Elland Road on Sunday, but Australia have more than wounded pride from the defeat at Old Trafford to trouble them. Three of their backs — Andrew Ettingshausen, Brett Mullins and Ryan Girdler — are nursing injuries.

A knock to his sternum is unlikely to prevent Ettingshausen's participation. Australia will muster all the experience that they can to maintain their 27-year dominance over Britain and there is still no finer defensive centre in the game — as Paul Newlove, his opposite number, found to his cost in Australia's opening victory at Wembley.

Ettingshausen's reassuring presence is made doubly important by the likely absences of his centre partners from the first two matches: Mullins has a burst blood vessel in a leg and Girdler a knee ligament problem, although he has resumed training.

Darren Smith, no stranger at centre, having scored three tries in the Brisbane Broncos' world club championship final victory, is set to move out of the pack, with the experienced Brad Clyde — who is now fully recovered from a fall — installed at loose forward.

The line-ups will be announced today. Andy Goodway, the Britain coach, wanted an extra 24 hours to fine-tune his pack, where he may be tempted to start with Simon Haughton and push Chris Joynt into the front row. Goodway must balance the impact Haughton made as a substitute at Old Trafford and cutting down his options on the bench.

If Andy Farrell feels the weight of history, it is not apparent. The Britain captain exuded a quiet confidence yesterday. "Obviously, everyone is aware that Australia haven't been beaten in a series for many years," he said. "If we concentrate too much on that, we're not concentrating on the job. We know the areas where we have to improve to win."

A healthy dose of realism was supplied by the Australian in the Britain camp. Shaun McRae, Goodway's assistant and part of the Australia coaching set-up on the 1990 and 1994 tours, said: "We feel Britain can play better and will have to in order to match Australia.

"Their reaction to defeat will be immaculate preparation and to draw on the experience of Walters, Daley, Ettingshausen and Clyde in the pressure situation."

Alan Hunte, the Britain wing, is set to join Hull Sharks, newly-promoted to the Super League next season, after he submitted a second transfer request at St Helens, where he has been at odds with the club's board since August

Bradford Bulls also made a recent offer for him, but St Helens will seriously consider a £350,000 package by Hull, which also involves Steve Prescott and Simon Booth.

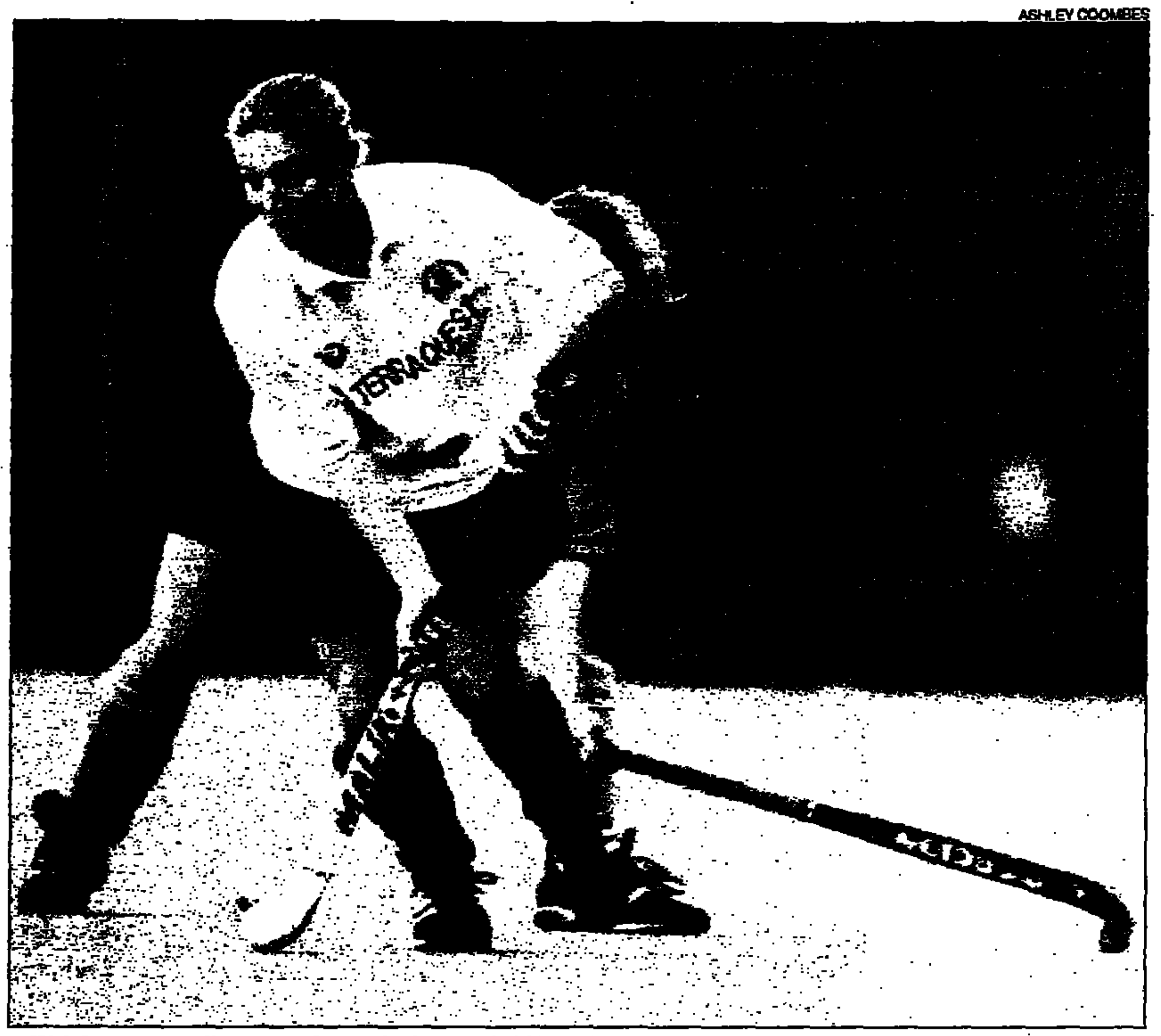
The proposed deal is Hull's first step, under the new ownership of David Lloyd, the former tennis player, towards strengthening their squad and appeasing supporters who objected to the sale of Tevita Vaikona, the prolific Tonga centre, to Bradford.

"Hull haven't spoken to me personally, but they have to the club," Hunte said. "I've had 8½ great years at Saints, but I am unhappy with the way that the club's being run."

Castleford Tigers are to consult shareholders and supporters about a move to a new stadium at Whitwood, near the M62. The West Yorkshire club is now in a position to finalise an agreement over land owned by Wakefield council. It has signed a £250,000 three-year kit deal with Olympic sportswear.

Education provides Wright choice

SARAH POTTER



ASHLEY COOMBES

Wright's outstanding potential on the hockey field has already caught the eye of an impressed England coach

Marketing men seduce would-be sporting heroes by telling them to buy the product, swagger to the playing field and "just do it". Others believe in the less dreamy theory that behind every top player stands a coach. If so, Lucilla Wright, 17, the bright young hockey player of Olton and England, is only one pace ahead of a man finding it increasingly difficult to stay in the shadows.

Gavin Featherstone has guided his club to the top division of the women's national league. He is abrasive or charming, depending on who you talk to. One thing, though, is certain — he is responsible for the development of many of the country's top young hockey players and, with National Lottery money nudging international players towards full-time commitment, he keeps their feet firmly on the ground.

As the England Under-21 coach, his demands are exacting. Before the Junior World Cup in Seoul last August, he thought nothing of telephoning his players at 6am to ensure that they were up and running. Strict diets had to be followed. He does not, however, believe in too much, too soon and some remarks that he has made have clearly irked the hockey hierarchy. "Teenage drop-out follows teenage burn-out," he said. "Insensitive over-use is not helpful."

Wright has reason to be grateful for such care and attention. Her skills and dogged determination earnt a selection call from Maggie Souyave, the England coach, for last summer's World Cup qualifying tournament in Zimbabwe and she has been handed a National Lottery grant to help her in her sport. It is a pity that when the next big international event, the World Cup, takes place in Holland next May, Wright will also be taking her A levels.

Indeed, the clash is indicative of a deeper problem. Selectors want to satisfy the clarion call for youth, there are other issues, such as education, at stake.

Teenage development is a hot issue to a club like Olton, which has eight of its 16-strong squad under the age of 20. Everyone agrees that Wright is one of hockey's brightest prospects, but the timing of her development is less clear and Souyave will have to address the issue before announcing her World Cup training squad.

"Hockey is changing because we've got a lot more funding now," Souyave said. "After Christmas, it will be a semi-professional time for the players chosen.

"What we've done in the past year will be very indicative of what we select. Lucilla is certainly in the forefront and it's going to be an interesting time as to whether she can do this alongside her education."

That education means exams in biology, business studies, physical education and general studies, which will be taken at Bromsgrove School, where Wright's older sister, Sally, also an England Under-21 international, went before her. Sally Wright is now studying medicine.

"I'm not sure I can follow in her Einstein path," Lucilla Wright said, "but, if I get the grades, I would like to go to university and become a physiotherapist."

Again, like her sister, she wants to continue playing at Olton, which is as much a testament to the club's social appeal as its coaching policy. "It's superb at Olton," Wright said. "We've got six women's and men's teams, so it's a great atmosphere. The sponsors are terrific and Gavin develops our strong points. He doesn't try and make you into a robot hockey player. I've had to grow up and mature in the game and he's given me that side."

Top coaches can now earn lucrative fees, but whether the top players can follow suit remains to be seen. Professionalism might hasten an overhaul of the competitive domestic structure that places too many demands on its performers, especially the young, it might ensure better planning for our national squads, but it can never be as liberating as a full education.

Wright's parents are playing their part. "They bring me back to reality," she said. "They want me to go as far as possible, but, more than that, they want me to go to school, pass my exams and lead a normal life. I'm not like a total hockey geek."

Featherstone described exactly what she is: "An exceptional talent for British hockey." The most immediate gold medal, though, will be a place at university — as long as it is somewhere close to Olton.

> 'Everyone agrees that she is one of hockey's brightest prospects'

SPORT IN BRIEF

Silk Cut loses position

SAILING: The second leg of the Whitbread Round The World Race continues to produce swings of fortune among those chasing the leader, *Swedish Match*. Yesterday, less than 17 miles covered five boats scrapping for position in the lower half of the fleet, with Lawrie Smith, of Great Britain, in *Silk Cut*, slipping to eighth place.

Smith's young navigator, Steve Hayles, was feeling the pressure, as the British boat dropped down another position. "We are concentrating on *Merit Cup* and *Chessie Racing* at present, with a big emphasis on working south," Hayles reported.

Irish highs

BOWLS: Ireland continued to dominate the European indoor team championship in Jersey yesterday, maintaining their eight-point overnight lead in the final round of the women's pairs and triples in the morning and then notching up wins in the opening men's singles and fours events to stretch their advantage to nine points over England, the defending champions.

Lara clear

CRICKET: Warwickshire have cleared another hurdle in their negotiations to sign Brian Lara for next season. Steve Camacho, chief executive of the West Indies Cricket Board, confirmed yesterday that Lara's commitments with Trinidad and Tobago in the Red Stripe Cup were "unlikely to extend too far into April".

Japan date

GOLF: Lee Westwood, after winning the Volvo Masters and finishing runner-up in the Sarazen World Open in Georgia, has moved on to Japan, where today he starts his defence of the Sumitomo Masters, a title he gained by beating Jeff Sluman and Costantino Rocca in a play-off.

TENNIS: BRITISH CHAMPION TURNS ON THE POWER TO MAINTAIN HIS GRIP ON NATIONAL TITLE

Henman will not make U-turn on Telford

By Alix Ramsay

THE long goodbye has begun — in more ways than one. Tim Henman launched his final campaign at the Guardian Direct national championships with a 6-4, 5-7, 6-1 victory over Nick Weal yesterday and then went on to re-affirm that he would not be playing in Telford again.

"It is good to come and support the event," Henman said. "I really want to win, but if I lose it is not the be all and end all. It would not be a setback in my career. From a personal point of view I have nothing to gain from this. I've always enjoyed it here, but a week's rest could be more beneficial."

Certainly Henman did not seem bothered that Weal played exceptionally well; fending off five match points at 4-6, 4-5 before taking the second set and forcing Henman to move up a gear. "At times I was a little careless," a relaxed Henman said.

The national championships have come a long way. With the interest surrounding Henman and Greg Rusedski, selling tickets has not been a problem, but take away the top two attractions and the event reverts to its former low-key status.

For its part, Guardian Direct has stated that it will continue to be involved with the Lawn Tennis Association, but the contract next year has yet to be finalised. The unofficial line is that it will support the nationals, but probably not to the same extent.

The company is also putting its money behind the new tournament to be staged in London next February, the £480,000 Guardian Direct Cup, featuring, understandably, Henman and Rusedski.

Jo Durie, who supported the nationals through thick and thin, believes that Henman has got it wrong. During 13 appearances at the nationals, she won the title seven times and earned more than £100,000. In the early days she was in Henman's position, sitting at the upper end of the world rankings.

"Yes, of course it was difficult to come back here," she said. "It was nerve racking at times and frustrating. I was playing against people with nothing to lose and I had everything to lose. There were times when it was a real pain and I wondered what I was doing here.

"It is very important that we keep the roll going that has been generated with Tim and Greg. You have to give something back."

SNOOKER

Dale lives up to new star status

THE determination that helped Dominic Dale unexpectedly triumph at the Grand Prix last month was again in evidence as he reached the second round of the United Kingdom championship at Preston Guild Hall yesterday (Phil Yates writes).

Dale, the world No 54, recovered from a 5-2 deficit to beat Alfie Burden 6-5. He will now play Darren Morgan, a fellow Welshman.

"I was very nervous," Dale, still coming to terms with his new-found celebrity, said. "I felt that everybody was looking for something special and I couldn't settle down."

Burden, who had reached the last 16 of the Grand Prix, led 45-1 in the eighth frame, but Dale produced a 50 clearance to keep the match alive.

The prospect of defeat confronted Dale again in the ninth frame, but Burden, who beat him 5-0 in the qualifying competition of the German Open this season, overcut a brown to a baulk pocket when an additional blue would have secured victory. Dale cleared to pink to trail 5-4 before adding the closing two frames.

Matthew Stevens, a surprise semi-finalist at the Grand Prix, compiled the first century break, 105, during a 6-3 victory over Jamie Woodman.

Willie Thorne, runner-up to Steve Davis in the UK championship 12 years ago, highlighted a 6-2 win over Peter McCullagh with breaks of 81 and 75, while John Read, of Wolverhampton, progressed to meet Stephen Hendry, the title-holder, by rallying to beat Michael Judge 6-3.

SQUASH: ENGLAND BRACED FOR FINLAND AFTER OLD FIRM CRUSH GERMANY

Frustrated Marshall left waiting in the wings

From Colin McQuillan
in Kuala Lumpur

ENGLAND will meet Finland in the quarter-finals of the world team championship today after a confident 3-0 defeat of Germany in their final pool A match yesterday. Playing what could be called "the old firm" of Simon Parke, Del Harris and Chris Walker, three of the quartet who won the championship last time in Cairo two years ago, England dropped only 15 points in the first two decisive rubbers and 18 in the third-string dead rubber.

On the sidelines, Peter Marshall, who failed rather worryingly against Canada on Tuesday, sat twitching a racket in his hands, plainly longing to get back among the action. "We will not play him against Finland, although we are keeping our options open for Australia in the semi-finals," Stuart Courtney, the England team manager, said.

Australia face South Africa, whose first string, Craig Wapnick, gave the new world champion, Rodney Eyles, all sorts of trouble in the World Open last week. Egypt should cruise through against Pakistan and Canada are expected to beat Malaysia.

Wales, Scotland and Ireland are in the play-offs for ninth place.

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(TVs supplied with console)

HITACHI

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 45

TRINCULO

(a) In *The Tempest*, Alonso's jester, made lugubrious by drink. He spends his time with Caliban and Stephano, plotting to instal Stephano in Prospero's place. For most of the time his wits are soused in sack, but he has occasional flashes of asperity to remind us of his true calling.

CLOTEN

(b) Cymbeline's stepson, the man Cymbeline has in mind as husband for his daughter Imogen. As his name suggests, Cloten is a crass, unthinking fool, mocked by his own lords behind his back, easily persuaded to disguise himself as Imogen's husband, follow her into exile and rape her. He is loud and uncouth, and when he quarrels with true nobility, in the form of the king's long-lost (and disguised) son Guiderius, he loses his head, both figuratively and literally.

FREDERICK

(b) In *As You Like It*, the wicked usurper who takes his brother's lands and dukedom and drives him into exile. He is a clone of Oliver, and his part changes as abruptly from the bad (at the start of the play, when he banishes Rosalind) to good (when he meets a holy hermit, sees the error of his ways, makes restitution and retires to a monastery — all without once stepping onstage).

LONGAVILLE

(a) In *Love's Labour's Lost*, an attendant lord on Ferdinand, one of the four young gallants at the heart of the play. Though he is described (by the Princess) as "a merry mocking lord" and one of the "short-liv'd wits" who "wither as they grow", his lines seldom bear out this report, and his role is chiefly to be one voice in an ensemble.

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LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

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PUBLIC NOTICES

TO THOMAS ANSTEY BAILEY

LATELY OF NORTH POINT, 1 PINES ROAD, BROMLEY, KENT BR1 2AA AND CALLE SANT RAFAEL, 38 T.T., 08190 SANT CUGAT, BARCELONA, SPAIN.

TAKE NOTICE that a Statutory Demand has been issued by The Governor and Company of the Bank of Scotland of The Mound, Edinburgh EH1 1YZ

The Creditor demands payment of £76,530.97 the amount now due on a judgment of the High Court of Justice, Queens Bench Division dated the 3rd day of June 1997

The Statutory Demand is an important document and is deemed to have been served on you on the date of the first appearance of this advertisement. You must deal with this Demand within 21 days of the service upon you or you could be made bankrupt and your property and goods taken away from you. If you are in any doubt as to your position, you should seek advice immediately from a solicitor or your nearest Citizen's Advice Bureau

The Statutory Demand can be obtained or is available for inspection and collection from Underwood & Co of 40 Welbeck Street, London W1M 8LN, Solicitors for the Creditor whose telephone number is 0171-487 4461 and whose reference is PRN8/357-42

You have only 21 days from the date of first appearance of this advertisement before the Creditor may present a Bankruptcy Petition.

The Crossley Will Trust

The Trustee of the J T Crossley Will Trust - the Crossley Fund a Charity registered with the Charity Commission charity reference 207819 HEREBY GIVES NOTICE that he has passed a resolution under Section 74(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993 for the purposes of transferring the property of the Charity to the charity known as Bircham & Company Charitable Trust Charity reference 803150.

LEGAL NOTICES

The Insolvency Act 1986
MORSPORT LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a Meeting of Creditors of the above named Company will be held on 27th November 1997 at 4 Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6EN at 12.00 noon for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99, 100 and 101 of the said Act. NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that Maurice Raymond Dorrington, FIPA, of Poppleton & Appleby, 4 Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6EN is appointed to act as the qualified Insolvency Practitioner pursuant to Section 98(2)(a) of the said Act who will furnish creditors, free of charge, with such information concerning the Company's affairs as they may reasonably require.

Dated this 10th day of November 1997

By Order of the Board

J M S MACDONALD, Director

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
NO 006312 of 1997
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF CITYGATE DEALERSHIPS LIMITED
AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on 27 October 1997 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the capital of the above-named Company from £10,000,000 to £2,500,000.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Registrar of the Companies Court, at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on Wednesday 26 November 1997.

ANY Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of capital should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.

A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitor on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

Dated this 11th day of November 1997.

Francesca Orchard of H.R. Owen Plc, 75 Kinnerton Street, London SW1X 8ED

Solicitor for the above named Company.

LEGAL NOTICES

ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC

Prince Consort Road
London SW7 2BS

NOTICE is hereby given that the ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Corporation will be held at the College on Monday 15 December 1997 at 3.45pm to receive a Report and Statement of Accounts from the Council.

Any member wishing to attend as a Graduate should apply by 8 December 1997 to The Clerk to the Council at the above address, furnishing details of his / her claim to membership, so that the necessary papers, security and voting authorities may be made available at the meeting.

DATED 10 November 1997
W M Morgan
Clerk to the Council.

The Insolvency Act 1986
HOLIDAY NETWORK LIMITED
(In Liquidation)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Maurice Raymond Dorrington FIPA of Poppleton & Appleby, 4 Charterhouse Square, London, EC1M 6EN was appointed Liquidator of the said Company by the members and creditors on 10th November 1997.

M.R. DORRINGTON, Liquidator

COMPANIES ACTS 1963-1990 OF IRELAND

DANA PETROLEUM plc

(Registered in the Republic of Ireland with registered number 119937)

NOTICE IS HERBY GIVEN that, pursuant to Section 201 of the Companies Act, 1963 of Ireland, a meeting of the shareholders of Dana to take place at the offices of Allen & Overy, One New Change, London EC4M 9QQ at 10.30 a.m. on 4th December, 1997 has been convened by The High Court of Ireland to consider, and if thought fit, approve a Scheme of Arrangement which would result in Dana Petroleum plc having a new holding company registered under the laws of England and Wales.

This Notice appears pursuant to an order dated 10th November, 1997 of The High Court of Ireland.

Victoria Viscountess Cross, formerly of Bratton, Wiltshire. Anyone knowing the whereabouts of the last will or relevant information - please contact Messrs David Harris & Co, Solicitors, 12 Pierrepont Street, Bath, BA1 1LA. Ref: JOG/Cross

1 GAN (GA) LIMITED
COMPANY NUMBER 1979361
2 GHIA FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED
COMPANY NUMBER 1583603
3 GAN INVESTMENTS LIMITED
COMPANY NUMBER 1070010
4 GAN SERVICES LIMITED
COMPANY NUMBER 1266666
5 BROOKDALE HUTTON & ASSOCIATES LIMITED
COMPANY NUMBER 822167
6 GENERAL PORTFOLIO TRAVEL & CONVENTIONS PLC
COMPANY NUMBER 2125684
7 GAN CONSULTANTS LIMITED
COMPANY NUMBER 2066409
8 GENERAL PORTFOLIO WELLESLEY LIMITED
COMPANY NUMBER 1516307
(ALL IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:

On 6 November 1997 the above named companies were placed in Members' Voluntary Liquidation and Colin Graham Bird of Price Waterhouse was appointed as liquidator by the shareholders. The liquidator gives notice under the provisions of Rule 4.182A of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the creditors of the companies must send details in writing, of any claim against the companies to the liquidator, at No 1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL by 19th December 1997 which is the last day for proving claims. The liquidator also gives notice that he will then make a final distribution to creditors and that a creditor who does not make a claim by the date mentioned will not be included in the distribution.

All know creditors have been or will be paid in fully.

Date: 7th November 1997

CG Bird, Liquidator.

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE

0171-680 6878
OR
FAX: 0171 481 9313

Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

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هكذا من الاصل

Hoddle points the way ahead for Arsenal striker as he chases England place

Wright is gunning to stake his claim

By Matt Dickinson

FOR any other striker it would be a blip at worst. For Ian Wright, though, failure to score in the past four FA Carling Premiership games is deemed to be bordering on a crisis and it was enough to prompt some lengthy analysis of the Arsenal forward at Bisham Abbey this week, where England are preparing for the international against Cameroon on Saturday.

Whether Wright will be among Glenn Hoddle's merry band travelling to France in the summer could be one of the fascinating sub-plots of the season, and the England coach only muddied the waters further the more he talked about the enigmatic player.

It is no exaggeration to say that Wright, passionate to the end and often to a fault, would be devastated by omission from the World Cup which, at 34, could provide a fulfilling and dramatic climax to a colourful career. He had not even made it back to the dressing-room after England's decisive draw against Italy in Rome before, his eyes wild with childlike excitement and longing, he pleaded: "Pick me, pick me, Glenn."

Hoddle, compassionate but no sentimentalist, gave his blunt answer this week. "All the players understand that, dependent on injuries over the next seven months, there are only a few cast-iron certainties," he said. "Ian knows he isn't one of them, and even those that are must maintain their form.

"But he knows he has another opportunity. If he had been told two years' ago that he had a chance of playing in the World Cup he would have laughed. The main event is playing well for Arsenal, trying to win the championship and then going on to the World Cup."

Nine Premiership goals this season hardly constitutes a drought, but Wright does indeed seem to be struggling to fulfil his target of playing well and consistently at club level. The absence of Dennis Bergkamp appears to upset Wright personally as much as the Arsenal team collectively and he has performed fitfully since breaking Cliff Bastin's Highbury goalscoring record.

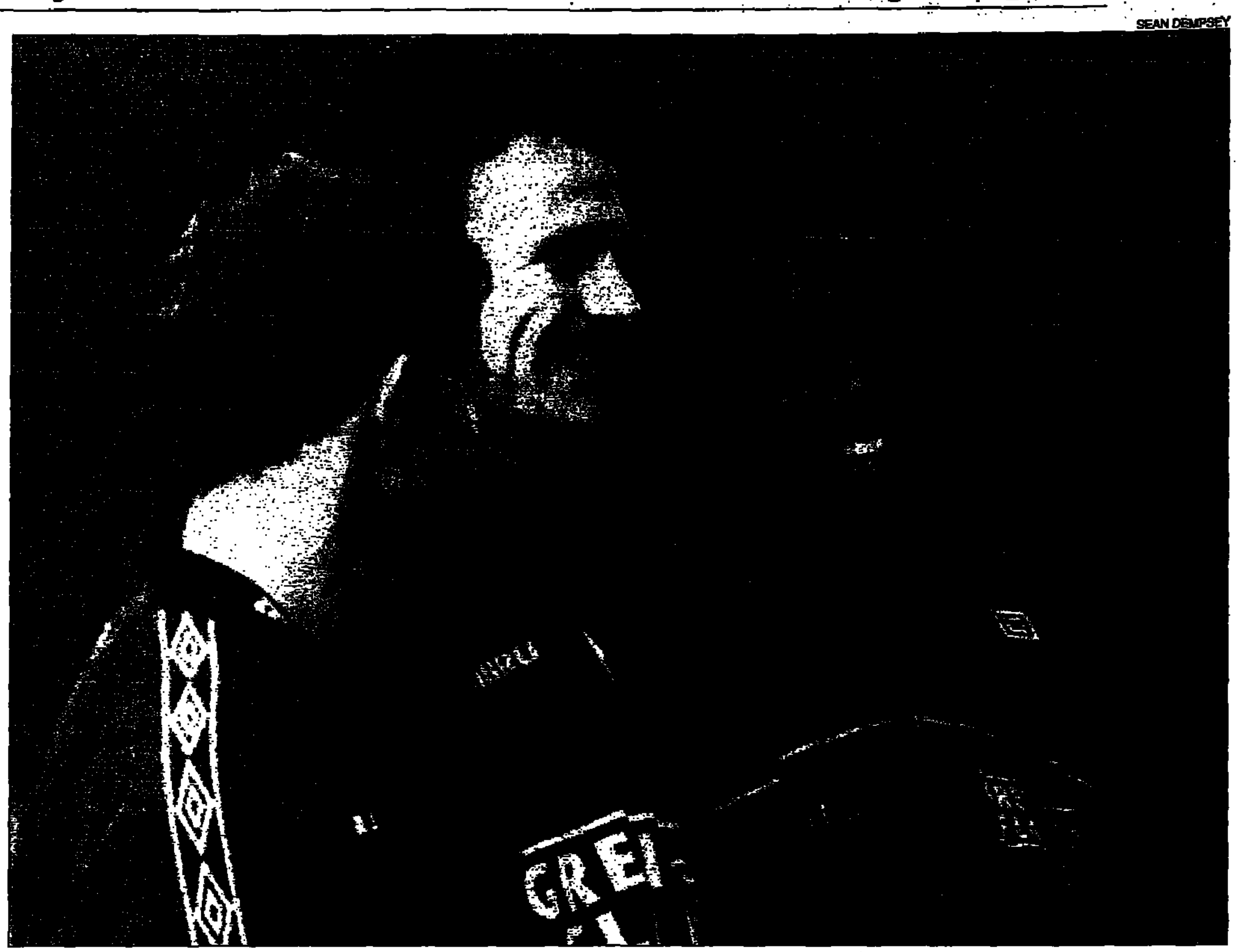
"I just think the record was a bit of a barrier," Hoddle said. "He needs to imagine there is another one there to be broken. He was magnificent in Italy. I asked him to do a specific job and he did it almost to a tee, hitting the post at the end. But he just needs to recharge again because a lot has happened this year for him, many positive and a few negative. A goal will do it. Once he sticks one in the back of the net, the big flyer will be back."

It is the fear, though, that Wright's many off-field activities are distracting him that concerns the England camp and it is something that the player recently admitted to in a phone call to John Gorman, Hoddle's assistant. A committed charity worker, recently seen in Brixton as supporting a police gun amnesty, Wright has also capitalised wherever possible on his high profile with an endorsement by Nike, as well as a newspaper column that has probably cost him as much in fines as it has added to his bank balance. As a late developer in the game, his desire to cash in is understandable, but even he is willing to cut down the money making and focus his attentions on a place in Hoddle's 22-man squad.

"Ian is getting on a bit now," Hoddle said. "You can do things when you are 23, not when you are 30-plus. This is the biggest season he will ever have in his career and he has been turning down things off the pitch.

"It was a few too many appearances, here and there, not just the commercial side, because he does a lot for different charities. He spoke to John Gorman and made sure the message got through to me that he was doing that. He realised it himself and has put his hand up. As a coach, you can never quite know what is going on behind the scenes."

SEAN DEMPSEY



A relaxed Wright takes a break with Nicky Butt, left, and Teddy Sheringham during an England training session at Bisham Abbey

Wilkinson rejects chance to rejoin Wednesday

By David Maddock

HOWARD WILKINSON has declined an offer to become the manager of Sheffield Wednesday. He confirmed yesterday that he will be staying with the Football Association as its technical director.

Wilkinson, who managed Wednesday before his last club post, at Leeds United, and this week unveiled his Charter for Quality, a blueprint for the future of the English game, said: "I have got a contract with the FA and I'm manager of the under-18 side. I have just seen my charter pushed through and now I'm committed to getting it organised. I was committed when I signed the contract with the FA and I'm committed now."

His decision leaves Dave Richards, the Wednesday chairman, wondering where to turn. The club had stated that the successor to David Pleat, would be announced yesterday.

It appears that Richards, a member of the FA Council, was reminded by the powers that be at Lancaster Gate that Wilkinson was seen as a valuable member of staff. Wilkinson has always played by the book and would never break a contract.

Last night it became increasingly obvious that the Wednesday board had pinned its hopes on Wilkinson and would not be returning to a shortlist containing experienced names such as Ray Harford, Bruce Rioch and Joe Royle.

It is understood that an emergency meeting of the directors considered Steve Bruce, the former Manchester United centre half and captain, who is playing with Birmingham City.

Tony Cottee, the former England striker, is being allowed to leave Leicester City after three months at Filbert Street. He has joined Birmingham on loan for a month with a view to a permanent transfer. Cottee, 32, has started only one match in the FA Carling Premiership since joining Leicester from Selangor, a Malaysian club, for £500,000.

Trevor Francis, the Birmingham manager, whose team has slipped from second to fourteenth place in the Nationwide League first division over the past two months, is also keen on Nestor Subiat, another striker, who played for Switzerland in the 1994 World Cup. Subiat, 31, is playing with Basle, on loan from Grasshoppers of Zurich.

Rivaldo, of Brazil, clears a challenge from Coleman yesterday

Wales profit from learning experience

Brazil	3
Wales	0

By Our Sports Staff

IT WAS a mis-match, but then everybody knew that. Brazil may have been without Ronaldo and Romário, Denilson and Edmundo, but they were still able to field a team to make many a manager drool with envy. Wales were without Giggs, Hughes, Hartson and Blake and to take on the world champions with a handful of Nationwide League novices in their stead seemed, at best, eccentric.

Eccentric, yes, but a failure, no. The expected rout never happened and Bobby Gould, the Wales manager, found his unheralded players rising to the challenge with unexpected honours. But for two typically Brazilian free kicks — you know, the cannonball curlers that wobble improbably but unstoppably towards top and bottom corners — the margin would have been 1-0 and the natives would have been restlessly inquiring into how such a fright could have happened.

Gould could afford to accentuate the positive afterwards. Wayward finishing may have denied his cobbled-together team the goal their performance deserved, but he and they returned home with heads held high.

"We had seven clear-cut chances, but they scored two world-class goals," Gould said. "You've got to be there to see how brilliant they are. What I'm trying to do is tell my players that they've got to look at what they saw today and say: 'That is what I want to be.'

"We had three players under 21 in the team. This was a fantastic experience. We've got to have faith and belief in our players and some of them rose to the challenge. People like this have to have the opportunity to find out if they have the capability." People like Simon Haworth, who took his first steps in international football in Brasilia yesterday.

Haworth, of Coventry City, earned special praise from his manager — "he was colossal" — as did Dean Saunders, the veteran Nottingham Forest striker — "he was truly, truly superb". Both were unlucky not to score.

As it was, Brazil made the game safe with two goals in four minutes, first from Zinho, breaking through the Wales defence just after the half-hour, then Rivaldo, who scored with a 30-yard free kick after he had been felled by Speed. When Rodrigo was brought down on the edge of the penalty area five minutes into the second half, he got up to bend in the third.

BRAZIL (4-4-2): Taffarel — Calú (sub: Ze Maria, 70min), Aldair, André Cruz (sub: Junior Baiano 64), Dorival — Ze Roberto, Flavio Conceicao (sub: Emerson 70), Rivaldo, Zinho — Muller (sub: Rodrigo 46), Dodo.

WALES (1-4-3-2): P Jones (Southampton; sub: A Marriott, Wrexham, 81) — G Speed (Everton) — S Jenkins (Huddersfield Town; sub: Andrew Williams, Southampton, 81), C Coleman (Blackburn Rovers), K Ready (Queens Park Rangers), R Page (Watford) — J Robinson (Charlton Athletic), M Pembridge (Sheffield Wednesday; sub: P Trollope, Derby County, 52), J Oster (Everton) — D Saunders (Nottingham Forest), S Haworth (Coventry City; sub: Adrian Williams, Wolverhampton Wanderers, 60).

Referee: J Castrill (Argentina).

Lincoln and North London offer grounds for giant-killing acts in intriguing first-round ties

Sherwood's Gray day haunts him still

FA CUP

Richard Hobson talks to a goalkeeper once involved in Wembley controversy

No sporting event suspends reality like the FA Cup. Little people become heroes overnight and legends in time. As the epitome of just what is possible, Ronnie Radford, Chris Kelly and Tim Buzaglo are part of football's folklore. So, rather more haplessly, is Peter Mellor, the Fulham goalkeeper, who conceded two of the daftest goals seen at Wembley in the 1975 final.

It is unfair to rank Steve Sherwood alongside Mellor though he, too, remains in the memory for an unfortunate goal conceded. Watford trailed Everton 1-0 in the second half when a high, hanging cross was curled in from the right flank. It appeared to be too close to Sherwood, moving off his line, but Andy Gray continued his run, rose with the goalkeeper and nodded the ball seemingly from Sherwood's outstretched arms into the net. The year was 1984 and Sherwood has recounted the incident so many times that he talks like a schoolboy reciting his tables. There is neither anger nor bitterness in his voice, not yet. By the weekend even this most accommodating man might tire of telling the tale.

Saturday sees the first round proper of the competition this season and Sherwood, at 43, will keep goal for Gainsborough Trinity against Lincoln City. He has been a guiding light through the qualifying rounds and the focus of attention since the draw matched the Unibond League premier division side with their nearest league club, some 30 minutes away. "I had forgotten what it was like to answer the phone and have a reporter at the other end," Sherwood reflected.

Conversations take a familiar route. A few pleasantries are exchanged, some facts volunteered and then, as if the question has dawned spontaneously, a request for memories of *that* goal.

So here goes: "There was no doubt in my mind that it was a foul. Andy was doing his job and I hold no grudge against him, but he knew he touched me when he jumped. Nine times out of ten he would not have got away with it. It ruined the game because it knocked us back so far. Of course it reflected badly on the goalkeeper, but I have never worried or felt I should apologise because I know what really happened."

Sherwood holds happier memories of the semi-final, of the moment when the team bus drew out of Villa Park after the win over Plymouth Argyle. "That is when we realised what we had achieved, because it was not a great Watford side," he said. "People think of Cup Final day as a great occasion, but for the losing team it is awful. I got a lot of criticism in the papers the next day. That Sunday is not one I want to live again."

Sherwood ended his League career three seasons ago — at Lincoln, ironically — and arrived at Gainsborough after 18 months with Gateshead. He was considering retirement when Ernie Moss, the manager, invited him to Gainsborough. He did not take a lot of persuading. "I am suspicious of players who give up because they say they want to end at the top," he said. "To me, that says they have lost their love for the game. When we beat Halifax to reach the first round proper we were hugging each other on the pitch and, at that particular time, the win meant as much to me as any through my career. I do not think of playing in non-league football as a comedown at all."

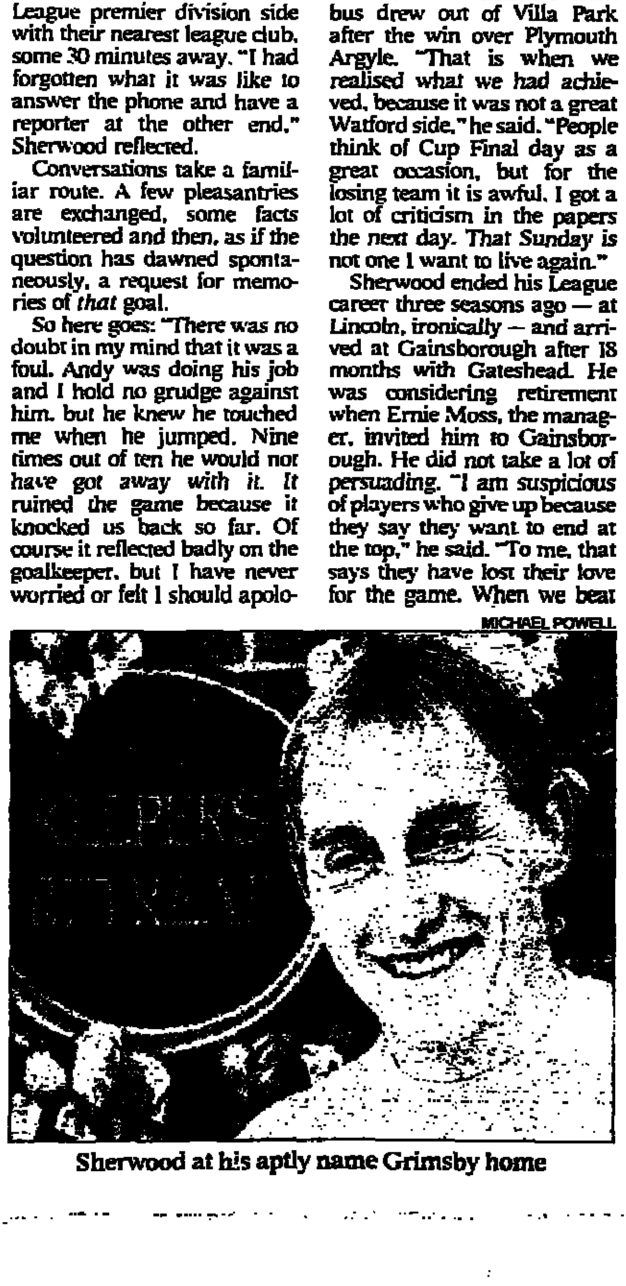
It is hard to consider that Sherwood will ever completely sever his links with football. The same is true for Moss, who remains Chesterfield's leading league goalscorer with 161 in three spells, and the oldest man, at 42, to score for Kettering Town. As the owner of a sports shop in Chesterfield, which he used to run jointly with Geoff Miller, the former Derbyshire and England cricketer, Moss witnessed first hand last season the uplifting effect that a Cup run can have on a community.

Gainsborough can only dream of emulating last season's semi-finalists, yet their passage through the qualifying rounds, coupled with good league form, has already kindled interest in the town. Trinity won the league's team-of-the-month award for October, when they won seven games out of eight, and expect to take 2,000 supporters to Lincoln.

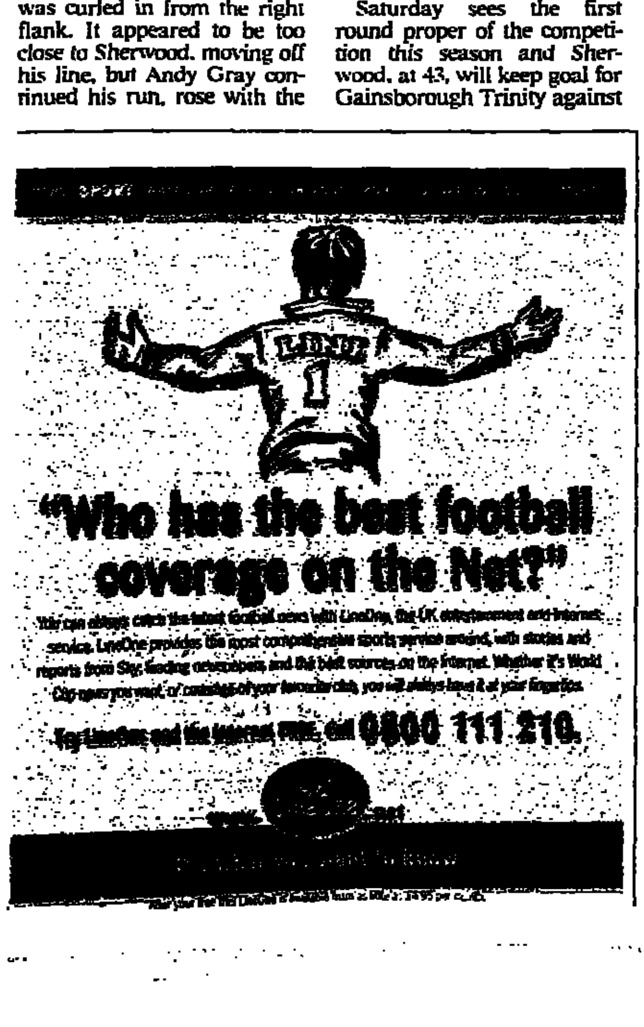
Their best days are long behind them. They were elected into the Football League in 1896 and played their first game against Newton Heath. Cricket always took priority at the Northolme ground, though, and, after finishing bottom of the old second division in 1912, they returned to the Midland League.

As for Heath, they became Manchester United and Alex Ferguson has promised that his side will play at Northolme to mark Trinity's 125th anniversary next summer. With good fortune, some of the players on Saturday may be familiar names by then, though, unfortunately, not as familiar as Steve Sherwood.

MICHAEL POWELL



Sherwood at his aptly name Grimsby home



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Hyatt catches new mood of optimism at Hendon

Russell Kempson meets a non-league player who has an unenviable day job

Freddie Hyatt used to help fix curtains but wanted a job with better long-term prospects. He is now employed by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and enjoys his work, rummaging among the debris of human life in the dark, dank corners of West London. He is a senior pest control technician: a rat-catcher.

On Saturday, Hyatt, 29, will give the King's Road rodents a break. Lack of overtime this weekend means the morning off and proper preparation for Hendon's FA Cup first-round tie against Leyton Orient at Claremont Road. A chance, perhaps, to exterminate Orient's hopes.

Hyatt, the Hendon midfield player, ventures daily where others fear to tread: into crumbling sewers teeming with vermin, needle-strewn basements once inhabited by drug addicts and cockroach-infested houses containing decomposing corpses. After four years, he has become immune to flesh-creeping horror.

"You get used it, it doesn't bother me now," he said. "I supervise the lads who do most of the work but we all get our hands dirty. We once had about thirty rats running around our feet and over our shoulders. The trouble is, they're partially blind. They don't really know where they're going."

House clearing can be worse. "Sometimes, the body of the person who has died is still there and has been for some time," Hyatt said. "That's not the problem, we just clear up what's left. What gets me is when the relatives turn up. They're not usually concerned about why or how the person died, just about what they can have, what's in it for them. They're nothing but scavengers."

Hendon, the Isthmian League club, sit in mid-table in the premier division under the guidance of Frank Murphy, the manager who doubles as mine host of the Prince Albert pub in Dulwich. They have planning permission to develop Claremont Road into a 12,000-capacity stadium and have a new, 99-year lease.

Three years ago, though, the club almost expired. Only the last-minute intervention of Ivor Arbiter prevented a grisly demise for the three-times Amateur Cup winners: the only side, in 34 seasons, never to have experienced relegation from the leading Isthmian division: the club that spawned Denis and Leslie Compton and ... er, Iain Dowie. Arbiter, 67, runs the Arbiter Group, the distributor of musical instruments to the rich and famous. Pick a pop legend, any one, and it is likely that he or she has been kitted out by the west Hendon company. Fender guitars, the firm's leading brand, sponsor the football club.

"It was either watch them go into extinction or help them out," Arbiter, the Hendon chairman, said. "It looked like a borstal institution when we took over, with barbed wire fences everywhere, but we've worked hard and it's looking good. It's amazing how emotionally involved you can become.

"I used to follow Arsenal but always had a secret ambition to be chairman of a football club. I didn't fancy a Football League side — too much pressure, too much money — but it's nice here. Nice crowd, nice people. It's a hobby which has grown and I'm starting to enjoy it now, even if we are spending a bit too much."

Arbiter's other passion is the sea. He rescued the club while on a boat off the coast of Holland, with negotiations conducted by ship-to-shore radio. "The line was a bit crackly but we got the job done," he said. On Saturday, he will listen to the game by telephone from a hotel in Buenos Aires, where he and his wife, Adrienne, conclude a three-week cruise — a belated 42nd wedding anniversary present.

"It's our biggest match since we took over and it's a shame to have to miss it," he said. "When I booked the trip, I didn't realise the dates clashed. I couldn't really cancel it. I couldn't do that to the wife, could I?"

Hyatt: dirty work

FOOTBALL: IRELAND FOLLOW VETERAN STRIKER TOWARDS WORLD CUP

Cascarino plans French finale

Russell Kempson celebrates an unlikely revival

For Tony Cascarino, time is of the essence. He has perhaps one more match at international level, should Ireland lose to Belgium in the second leg of their World Cup qualifying play-off in Brussels on Saturday, perhaps six months more on the club circuit, should his contract with AS Nancy, the French second division side, not be renewed at the end of the season. At 35, the queue of prospective employers is dwindling.

Cascarino shrugs it off with almost casual indifference. After 16 years and seven clubs, there is little left to fear. Old centre forwards never die, anyway; they simply fade away. He will reappear in some new guise, somewhere, contributing in the same, honest fashion that has characterised his career. Did not Wimbledon inquire about his health only a few weeks ago?

"I'm enjoying it at Nancy," he said. "We're top of the second division, going for promotion and we've got a good young side with some very promising players. The club has always had a good reputation for bringing through the younger lads and you can see why. If we go up, who knows? I might have another year left in me, I might not. I'll have to see what's available." *C'est la vie.*

Adjusting to France has not proved a problem. He joined Marseilles on a free transfer from Chelsea in 1994, scoring 77 goals in two seasons, before moving on a year ago. "Nancy needed a striker and I fancied a change," he said. He also likes the calm Gallic existence. "It's good to go out, have a nice meal, just relax. Gone are the days of drinking and clubbing."

Gone are the days, too, of the lanky, lumbering central strikers who made up for lack of skill and pace by physical presence and aerial power. If the centre back sustained a lump or two, so be it; if the goalkeeper got unfairly jostled, tough.

Cascarino, in many respects, is a relic of the past. Nowadays, at home and abroad, centre forwards are built mostly for speed. It is not enough to bully an opponent or bulldoze a way through; managers look for more subtlety, more grace and guile. And, naturally, more goals.

In April, after Ireland's dismal 3-2 defeat against Macedonia in Skopje, Cascarino's proud wearing of the green shirt appeared over. He played when palpably unfit, such was his desire to help the cause, and was replaced at half-time. "I was going to drop him from the squad," Mick McCarthy, the Ireland manager, said. "I thought he was finished."

Five months later, Cascarino scored twice in the 2-1 victory against Lithuania in Vilnius that effectively secured Ireland's play-off berth. McCarthy sung his praises and thanked the Lord for giving him the good sense to reconsider.

Cascarino is the only squad member to have played a role in Ireland's 11 qualifying ties, in which he has scored seven times. His 19 goals in 75 internationals is only one short of Frank Stapleton's Ireland record. Impressive statistics, yet meaningless if he and his country do not reach their third successive World Cup finals.

Ireland have to score at least once on Saturday, after the disappointing 1-1 draw against Belgium at Lansdowne Road last month, to retain a chance of going on to France next year. "If I don't score, but we get through, that's fine," Cascarino said. "We can't play any worse than we did in Dublin and, anyway, we tend to play better away from home. I think we made Belgium look better than they were.

"It's a bit strange, really. When I was on my way to Marseilles three years ago, I never imagined I'd be in the position I'm in now. Perhaps there's some sort of destiny at work here — a chance to end my international career in France in the World Cup finals. Who'd have thought it?"

Cascarino celebrates against Romania last month

Tied by red tape and running in circles

If you are fit enough, and determined enough, you can run your way through deserts, up mountains and across continents. But you can hardly move at all if your ankles are hobbled with red tape.

Pawing the ground in Egypt today are two runners who had the dream of padding their way, entirely on foot, the length of the continent of Africa — from Alexandria in the north to Cape Town in the south.

They had hoped to raise more than £1 million for two charities — Save the Children and the Born Free Foundation — with a 6,200-mile cross-country run that had never been done before.

Nicholas Bourne, 27, and Chris Rainbow, 29, set out from Alexandria on October 1. Their spirits were high, their bodies well prepared and soon they were covering 45 miles a day.

They had had a few problems — an upset stomach, some dizzy spells and what they describe as a couple of the biggest blisters ever seen on the African continent. But blisters were nothing to the trouble that awaited them.

Bourne is something of a running adventurer. At 18, he competed for Great Britain as a junior hurdler; since then, he has worked as a model and set up his own sports promotion business. He met his fellow runner, Rainbow, after placing an advert in a running magazine for someone to join him on what he calls his "spiritual odyssey" through Africa.

Rainbow, a primary school teacher from Skegness in Lincolnshire, is an experienced athlete. He completed a run from John O'Groats to Land's End in 32 days in 1995.

The runners are accompanied by a six-strong team, including Bourne's sister, Emma, the chief organiser of the trip. They travel in four ex-Army Land Rovers, donated by the RAC.

Once in the desert, armed with heart-monitors, isotonic drinks and 22 pairs of running shoes each, their training started to pay off. The runners would get up each morning at 3.30, breakfast on pasta, and set out at 4am for the first of three two-hour runs of the day, to avoid the heat. They covered around 15 miles in each stretch and their relentless progress made the outrageous idea of the end-to-end continental foot-slog seem possible.

But 17 days into their journey, the expedition ran into the sand. An Egyptian major ordered them to halt at Quseir on the Red Sea coast, warning that ahead lay a no-go militarized zone betwen them and the border with Sudan. Effectively, they could run no farther.

The frustrated runners opted not to kick their heels, but to keep their bodies and minds in shape for the thousands of miles yet to come. They have been running around in circles in Egypt ever since.

Anyone who is mad enough, or bold enough, to try to go on foot from Cairo to the Cape is guaranteed trouble. Wherever you turn, you run into civil war, uprisings, deserts, swamps or the dangers of being kidnapped. Crossing Sudan is virtually impossible. A full-scale civil war has been going on for decades; guerilla fighters roam the countryside and the areas they do not control are mostly swamp.

East or west from Egypt is just as difficult. Libya, to the west, is hostile and has turned down previous charity ventures, including Richard Branson's request to overfly in a balloon.

To the east are Saudi Arabia, sticky for visas, and Yemen, where kidnapping of westerners is rife. Further dangers lurk in Ethiopia, where the fierce Danikil tribe is still apt to kill intruding strangers, and Somalia, where tribal fighting has halted only because of the fact that much of the country is flooded.

With the expedition halted, Emma Bourne headed back to Cairo in a desperate attempt to hack her way through the tangle of red tape. In the meantime, Bourne's mother, May Grandy, is running round in circles back in London, employing her own brand of shuttle diplomacy — skuttling energetically between envoys of Egypt, Sudan and Eritrea.

With the Egyptians still refusing to grant passage to the Sudan border, and with the ever-present danger of landmines there, the only realistic option, if the expedition is continue, would seem to be to take a ferry from Suez, sail down the Red Sea and therefore bypass Sudan by boat. This, of course, would kick an enormous hole in the runners' original dream.

Grandy is still hopeful that she is within a step of charming a deal that will let the runners through. If, in the name of sport and charity, she can cobble up an agreement, getting the Egyptians, Sudanese and Eritreans to deal with each other, she will have pulled off more than the peacetalkers of the United Nations. And the Run for Africa will have achieved more than its organisers could ever have dreamed of.

In the days of the Ancient Greeks, sport managed to flourish for centuries, despite the dangers of almost non-stop wars. Once every four years, out of respect for the ancient Olympic Games, warring cities and states would honour a truce to allow safe passage to Olympia for their champion athletes.

Things are not so easy these days, as the would-be cross-continent runners are discovering. They are determined that nothing will make them give up, but what they really need in their back-up crew is not a mechanic to fix their trucks or a nurse to tend their wounds, but a diplomat to get them across borders.

Meanwhile, they still run round in circles in Egypt — still sadly taping their blisters, but somehow still nursing their dream.

> 'Blisters were nothing to the trouble that awaited'

JOHN BRYANT

McCarthy admits concern about Houghton's injury

RAY HOUGHTON remains a doubtful starter for the second leg of Ireland's World Cup play-off against Belgium in Brussels on Saturday. The Reading midfield player took no part in yesterday's training season. "Ray has a heel injury, which is an obvious concern, and we will just have to wait and see," the Ireland manager, Mick McCarthy, said.

David Kelly, the Tranmere Rovers striker, and the Everton defender, Terry Phelan, also missed training but McCarthy stressed that this was purely a precaution and both would be available for selection.

After the draw at Lansdowne Road, McCarthy is expecting a tough struggle. "There will be physical commitment ... but size and weight don't always matter. Belgium are a big, strong team. But you have to stand up to people. Billy Bremner, Johnny Giles, Kenny Dalglish and Toto Schillaci were not the biggest of players but that never worried them on the field of play," he said.

McCarthy will not name his team until an hour before the start and intends to keep Belgium guessing whether he will play five in midfield, with Tony Cascarino as a lone striker, or opt for a more orthodox 4-4-2 formation. But with Ireland needing to score to cancel out Belgium's precious away goal, the probability is that Cascarino will be partnered by David Connolly, of Feyenoord, with Lee Carsley, of Derby County, likely to win his third cap in midfield.

Qatar miss rich rewards as Saudi Arabia take spoils

SAUDI Arabia ended Qatar's World Cup hopes with a 1-0 win in Doha yesterday that secured their place in the finals in France next year. Mohammed Shahrani struck a shot under Aamer al Kaabi, Qatar's reserve goalkeeper, in the 63rd minute to decide the match and the top spot in Asian group A. The Saudis also qualified for the finals in the United States in 1994.

The result meant that the favourites, Iran, dropped to second and must face Japan in a play-off in Malaysia on Sunday. The winner will qualify for the finals and the loser will play Australia over two legs, on November 22 and 29. Japan finished second in Asian group B behind South Korea, who took the other automatic spot.

Qatar, who had won their previous three matches to force their way back into contention, had gone into the final group match looking for a victory that would have secured qualification for the tiny Gulf emirate. Qatar's rulers offered large cash prizes, homes and cars to the players if they qualified.

The Qatarteam started in enterprising fashion, putting pressure on their neighbours, who brought a large army of fans to the Al Arabi club stadium. Shahrani's shot was a rare chance to score.

Saudi Arabia, who dismissed their coach, Eduardo Vingado, and brought in Otto Pfister halfway through the group matches, must ultimately thank Qatar for their top spot. Qatar beat Iran 2-0 at the weekend.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

This hand from the BBL Premier League has a similar theme to yesterday's. Would you rather defend or play Four Hearts?

Dealer East **East-West game** **IMPs**

♠ 8 4 2
♥ 8 5 3 2
♦ J 6 5 2
♣ A 4

♠ A 9 6 5 3
♥ Q
♦ A Q 10 8 7 3
♣ 5

N
W E
S

♠ Q 7
♥ 7 6
♦ 4
♣ K Q J 10 8 7 6 3

♠ K J 10
♥ A K J 10 9 4
♦ K 9
♣ 9 2

S	W	N	E
—	—	—	3 C
3 H	Pass	4 H	All Pass

Contract: Four Hearts by South. Lead: five of clubs.

The usual line in Four Hearts was for declarer to win the club lead, draw trumps and exit with a club. That would have succeeded if East had won and innocently led a diamond from a holding including the queen. With the distribution as it is that fails, and in any case it relies on a defensive error.

Better is to play for the only distribution that will guarantee the contract. First, declarer has to assume the clubs are 8-1 (quite possible — after all East has opened Three Clubs at adverse vulnerability). So to make the best use of his only entry to dummy (the eight of hearts), declarer should play for West to hold the ace and queen of diamonds, and for East to hold the queen of spades.

After winning the first club declarer draws trumps and leads the king of diamonds. That leaves West helpless. However he defends, declarer will eventually set up a diamond for a club discard. The fortuitous doubleton queen of spades in East's hand is not necessary — even if East had been 3-1-1-8, after winning the king of diamonds with the ace West would have to give declarer an extra entry to play spades, or play spades himself.

Finally, do you see the defence that does beat Four Hearts? West had to start with ace and another diamond. East ruffs, and now declarer has an inescapable club loser as well as the ace of spades. You should opt to defend.

☐ *The Times Book of Bridge 1*, a compendium of some of Robert Sheehan's daily columns, is now available in all good bookshops or direct from the publisher, B T Batsford, on 01376 321276, price £6.99 (plus £1 p&p).

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

SHAKESPEARIANS

TRINCULO
a. A jester
b. A fairy
c. A crooked steward

CLOTEN
a. An Athenian lord
b. A clot
c. A conspirator

FREDERICK
a. A lover
b. A wicked usurper
c. A best friend

LONGAVILLE
a. An attendant lord
b. The French Marshal
c. A tutor

Answers on page 43

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Fine Score

London grandmaster Jon Speelman was one of the heroes of the English team's performance in the World Team Championship which finished last week in Lucerne, Switzerland. Speelman scored 4 points from 6 games and many felt that it would have been more profitable to employ Speelman in the remaining three rounds of the tournament, instead of relying on reserves.

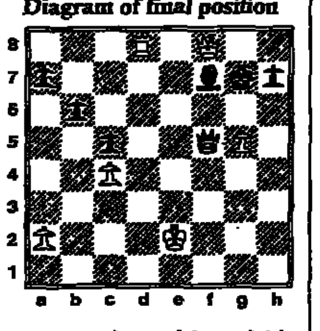
Speelman's play is a pleasing blend of massive strategic vision allied with an acute tactical ability, whenever danger threatens. His win today against a representative from Cuba shows his aggressive spirit and breadth of vision in action. Particularly worthy of note is his decision to avoid castling.

White: Jon Speelman
Black: Juan Borges
World Team Championship,
Lucerne 1997

English Opening

1	c4	c5
2	Nf3	Nc6
3	Nc3	g6
4	e3	d6
5	h3	Bg7
6	d4	f5
7	d5	Bxc3+
8	bxc3	Ne5
9	Nxe5	dxe5
10	e4	Nf6
11	exf5	gxf5
12	Be2	0-0
13	f4	e4
14	g4	Qa5
15	Be3	b6
16	Kf2	Rf7
17	Rg1	fxg4
18	hxg4	Ne8
19	d6	exd6
20	Qc2	Be6
21	Qxe4	Nc7
22	Rad1	Qxc3
23	Rxd6	Re8
24	Qd3	Qb2
25	Qd2	Qa3
26	f5	Bc8
27	Rd8	Bd7
28	Rxe8+	Bxe8
29	Bf4	Rd7
30	Qc2	Bf7
31	Bxc7	Rxc7
32	Qd2	Rc8
33	Qg5+	Kh8
34	Qf6+	Kg8
35	Qg5+	Kh8
36	Qf6+	Kg8
37	Rd1	Re8
38	Qg5+	Kh8
39	f6	Bg6
40	Qh6	Rxe2+
41	Kxe2	Qb2+
42	Qd2	Qe5+
43	Qe3	Qxf6
44	g5	Qf5
45	Rd8+	Kg7
46	Qe7+	Bf7
47	Qf8+	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



Speelman has celebrated his fine result in Lucerne by publishing the long awaited book of his best games. The notes to the encounters are exceptionally deep and a fascinating section includes a blow by blow account of every game from his match victory against Nigel Short played at London in 1988, a contest which propelled Speelman to the semi-final of the World Championship Candidates tournament. Jon Speelman's Best Games (Batsford £15.99)

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in *Sport and in the Weekend* section on Saturday.

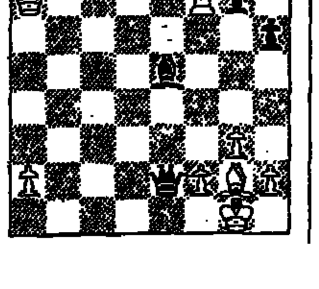
WINNING MOVE

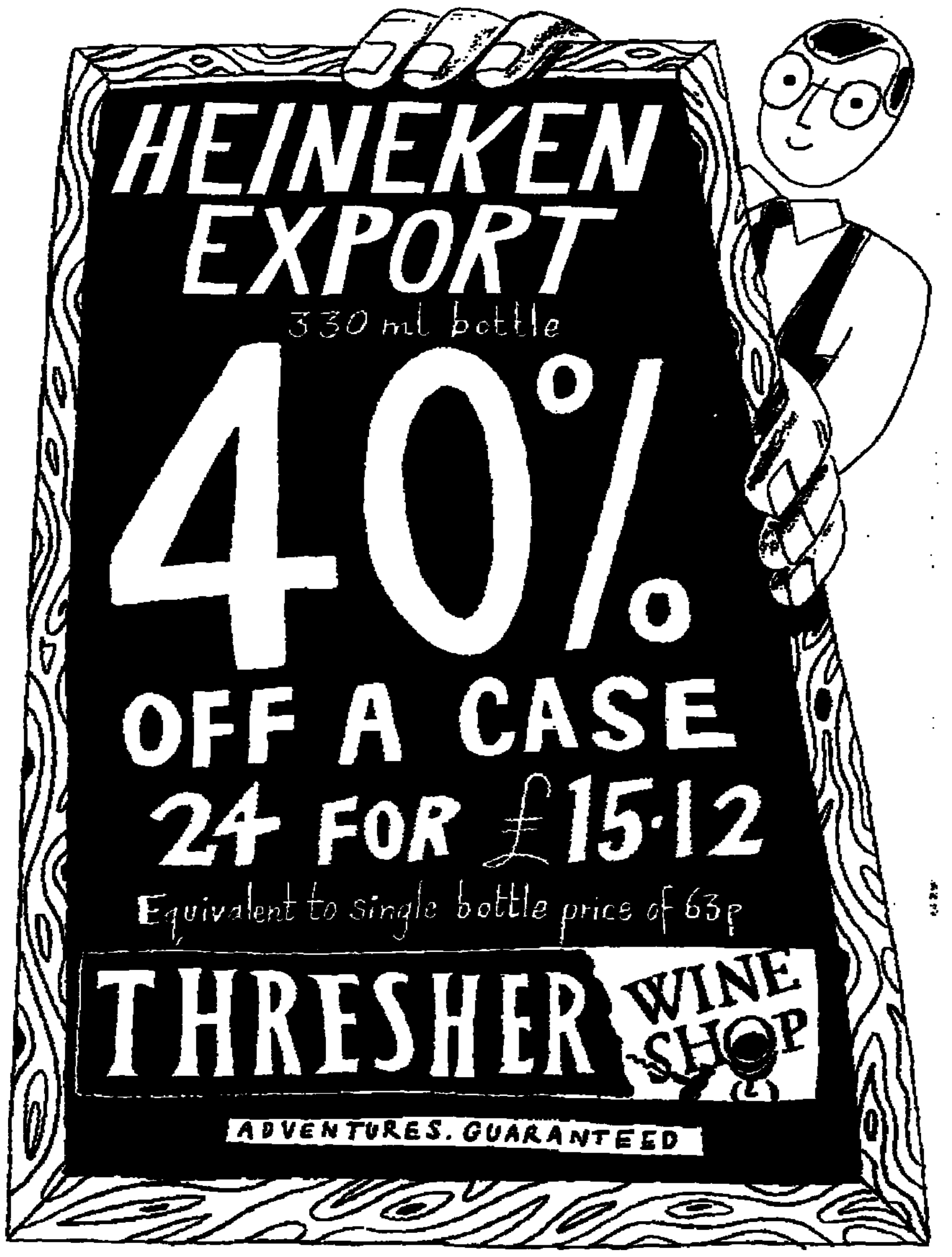
By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Reti — Przepiorka, Marienbad 1925.

White is two pawns up but bishops of opposite colour increase Black's drawing chances. However, there is a way of breaking through instantly. What is it?

Solution on page 43





Selected stores now open until 10.30pm.
Offer runs from 13.11.97 to 16.11.97 inclusive.

Prices correct at time of going to press. Normal price of 24 bottles £25.20. Available to over 18's only. Offer subject to availability.
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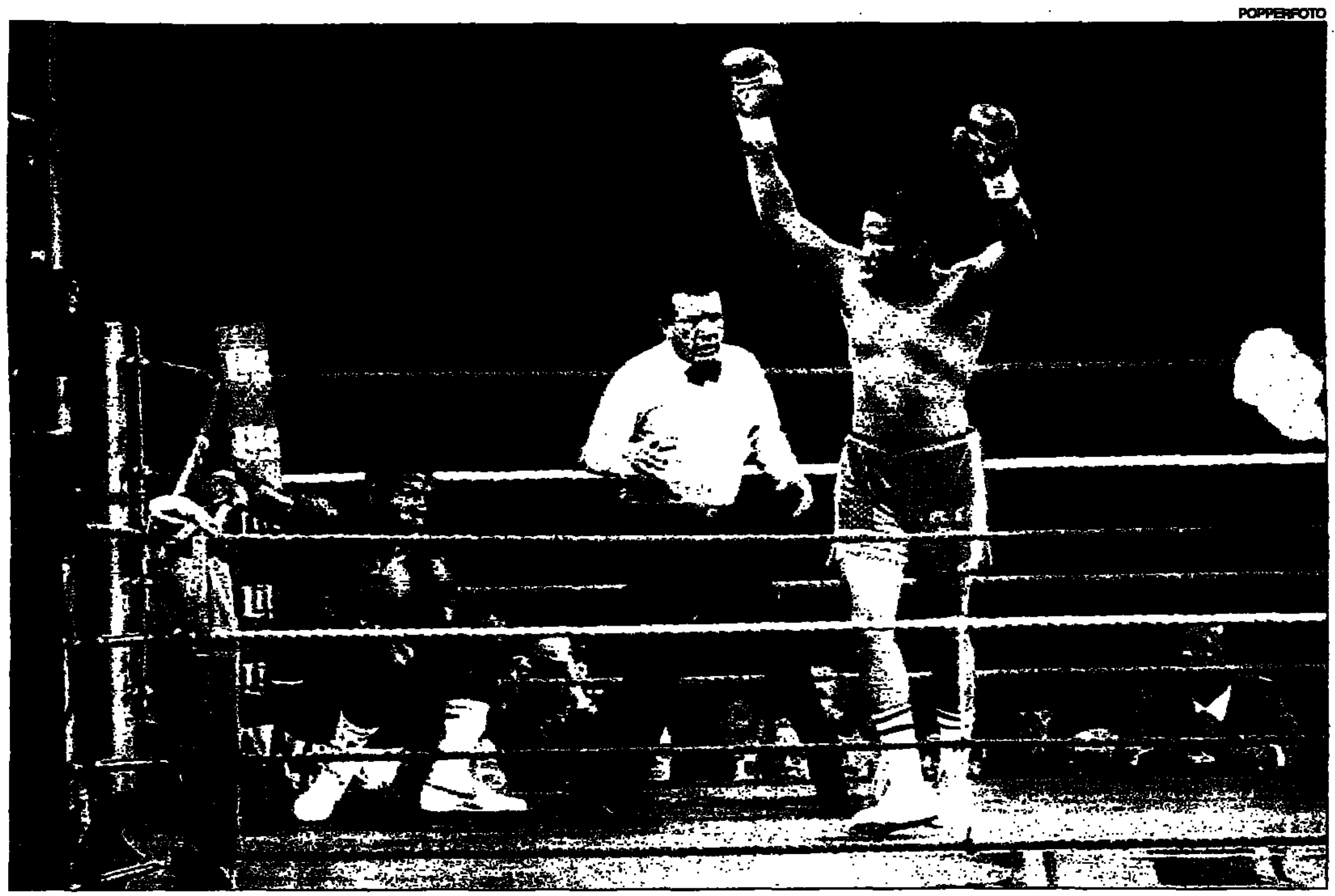
هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

Legendary figure of the ring sees career counted out

POPPERFOTO



Tim Witherspoon salutes his victory over Frank Bruno in the Duff-promoted 1984 world heavyweight title fight at Wembley Stadium

Duff hears toll of final bell

Srikumar Sen, boxing correspondent, talks to a man contemplating the last chapter of his sporting life

It was a small show but a fair house at York Hall, Bethnal Green, on Tuesday night. The bill was topped by Dominic Negus, a cruiserweight from Havering-atte-Bower, the Milky Bar Kid. He boxed a Ukrainian, Konstantin Okhrey, and stopped him with a left to the body in the sixth round.

Mickey Duff, the promoter, has only one boxer, Monty Wright, of Stevenage, on the card. After Wright won, Duff went home, leaving his co-promoters, Panix, to wrap up the evening.

The promotion was, in effect, the last of Duff's 47-year career. He started matchmaking in the East End, at Leyton Baths, and, typical of the cruel blows that boxing deals to its loyal servants, it ended in the East End on a minor show. Duff will neither confirm nor deny that it is the end of the road for him. All he says is: "If you don't have socks, you can't pull them up."

He has no more dates with Eurosport, the only television company that has a contract with him. Duff no longer has a sufficient number of world title aspirants to induce television companies to back him. His offices in Wardour Street, with its views of Soho rooftops and the entrances to basement striptease joints, closes today and is moving, with just one secretary, to Harrow.

Duff will work from his flat in Marble Arch. Terry Lawless, his long-time partner, has already stopped relying on National Promotions and puts his boxers on Frank Maloney's shows.

Duff, 68, has only Billy Schwer, the European lightweight champion, left as a credible world contender. When Schwer boxed two weeks ago, Duff said: "If he lost to Oscar García, I would have packed up completely. Now don't write me off." Duff is still a manager. "I don't have to be active particularly," he said. "I just have to be available. I can do a deal with Panos Eliades [of Panix Promotions] or others."

Duff's best boxers left to join other promoters: Frank Bruno, Joe Calzaghe, Richie Woodhall and Neville Brown left him to join Frank Warren; Robert McCracken went to Mat Tinley, an American promoter. Johnny Armour is likely to go to John Hyland in March and Henry Wharton is believed to be thinking of moving as well.

Duff blames Sky Television and Don King for his demise. King teamed up with Warren when Mike Tyson came out of prison and told Sky that it could have Tyson if it took a package of shows that he intended to put on with Warren. With Sky cornering the business, BBC and ITV dropped out of boxing. The irony for Duff is that King has now fallen out with Warren.

"One of the major mistakes I made was staying too loyal to the BBC," Duff said. "ITV offered me all kinds of deals to go with them, and I wouldn't do it. I had Naseem Hamed for eight fights. I went to the BBC with him and they said to me 'what makes you think anybody is going to switch on the television to watch somebody called Naseem Hamed? We haven't got too many Arabs living here you know'. When I lost BBC about 18 months ago that was a blow. When Warren joined Sky, that put me in the corner.

"I don't have to stay in boxing for financial reasons. I am financially comfortable enough to retire. I have enough money to live in the way I have been used to. I've been in boxing at a certain level over 40 years. I wouldn't like to go much below that. I don't want boxing to cost me money that I work hard to make. I don't want to end up like Jack Solomons. He left peanuts compared to what he made.

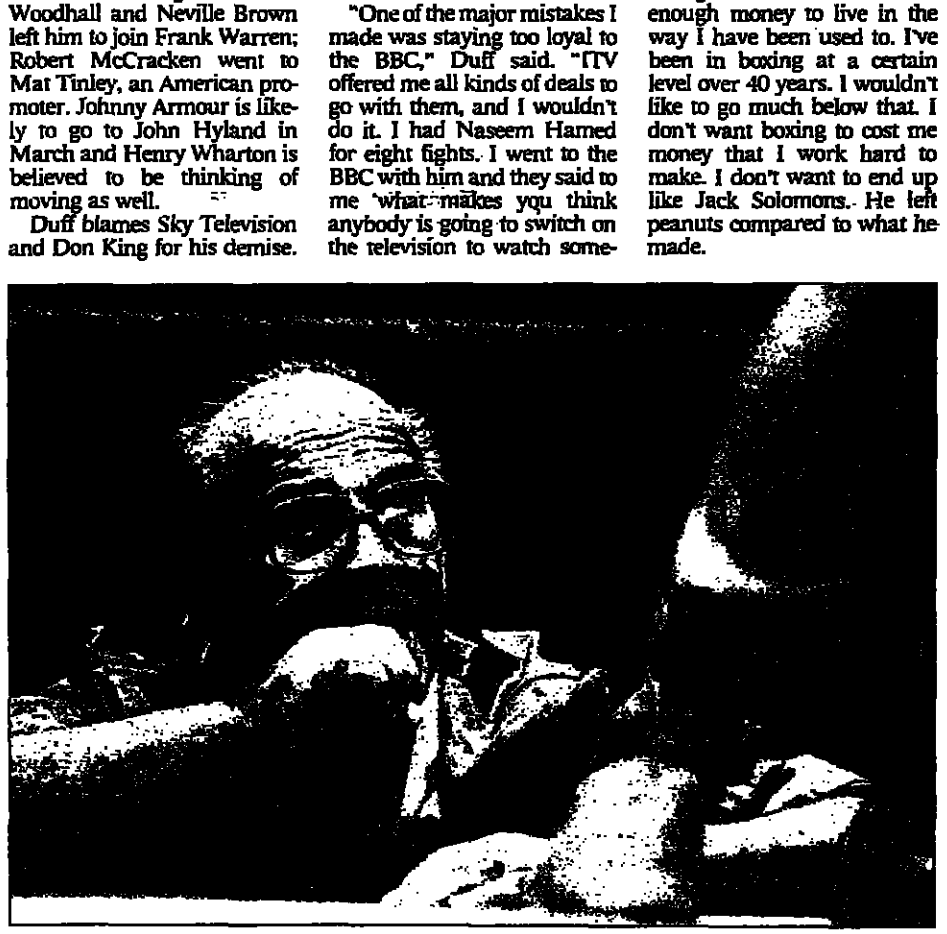
"I am 68 and I've got my health and strength. I've never been fitter. There's nothing wrong with me compared to five years ago, except that I haven't got a TV company. I've got my son, Gary, and grandchildren and friends. That's all I need."

His son, Gary Praeger, lives in Florida and has a petrol station in Orlando. Duff has been spending more of his time with him and has helped him to build a covenience store. "I've invested some serious money in his business," Duff said.

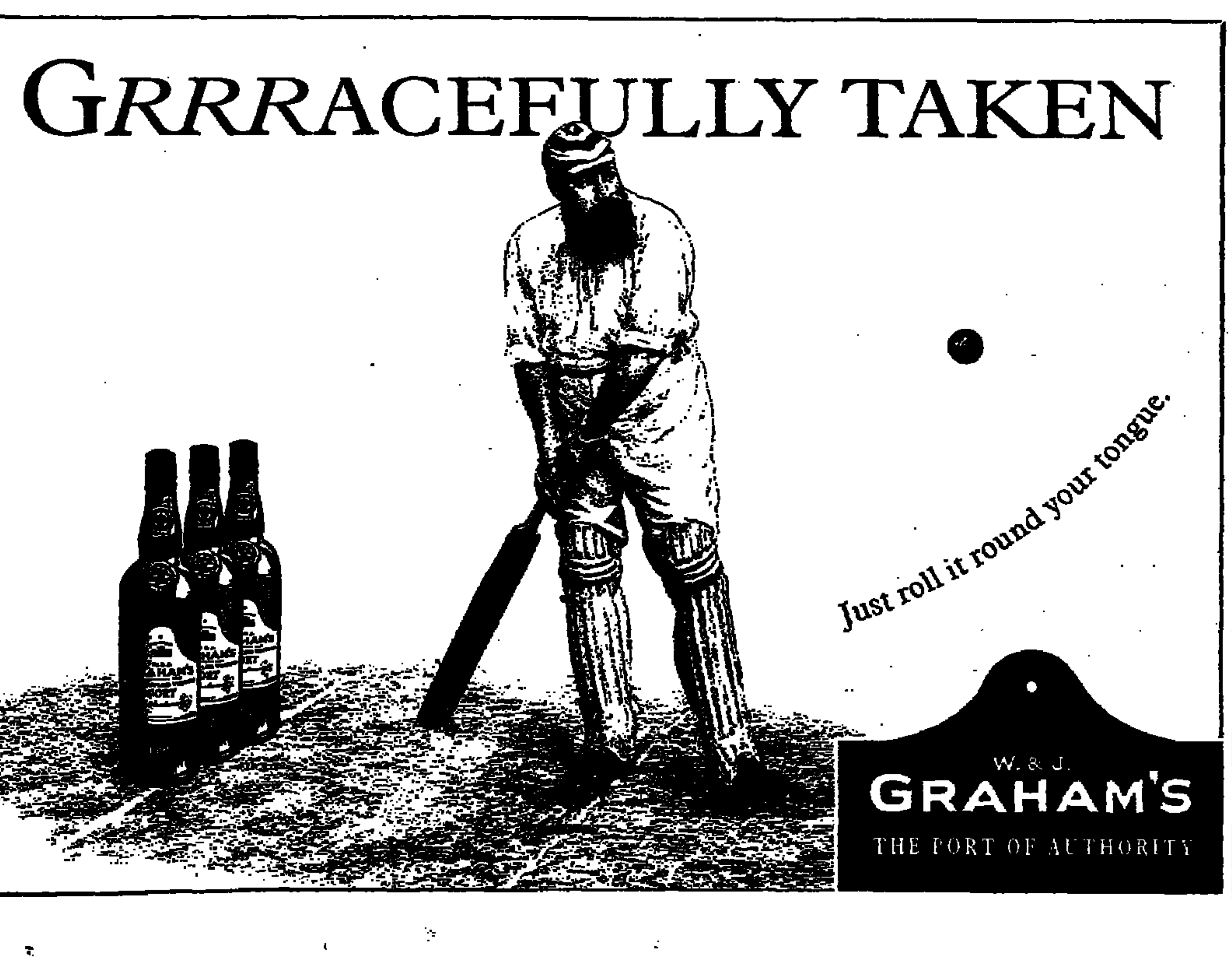
Duff, who is the only British promoter to rank alongside Solomons in world standing, had no equal as a matchmaker or negotiator. His greatest achievement was securing three world title bouts for Frank Bruno. Without Duff and Lawless, Bruno would almost certainly have remained no more than a bag and boots man.

After turning professional in 1948 and boxing for two years, Duff became a matchmaker working at Leyton Baths and Mile End Arena. He then moved to Empress Hall and Liverpool Stadium, where he staged his first promotion in 1953 and promoted for four years. "I've been around ever since," he said.

Together with Mike Barrett, Jarvis Astaire and Lawless, Duff promoted the country's best boxers under the banner of National Promotions at the Albert Hall, Wembley, and the Anglo-American Sporting Club at the Hilton Hotel. He was directly connected or associated with 32 world champions, including Terry Downes, John Conteh, John H Stracey, Alan Minter, Lloyd Honeyghan, Charlie Magri, Duke McKenzie, Cornelius Boza-Edwards, Maurice Hope and Barry McGuigan.



Duff in his element — at ringside, concentrating intently on the action



TELEVISION CHOICE

Herbal help for migraines

Natural Born Healers
Channel 4, 8.00pm

Sceptical doctors join Dr George Lewith, a former GP and now a specialist in complementary medicine, to test the effectiveness of alternative treatments. The first patient to be featured is Dianne Shorten, who for 26 of her 39 years has suffered from severe migraines. The headaches can be as frequent as daily, she has tried every sort of painkiller and her doctor has run out of options. Enter Michael McIntyre, a herbalist. He prescribes a mixture of Chinese chrysanthemum, uncombia bark and peony. Mrs Shorten must also give up hairspray, perfumes and tea. At the end of three months there is a significant improvement. The viewer may be reluctant to accept the verdict of an isolated case but Mrs Shorten's doctor is impressed. He is also pleased, as a fundholder, to have saved £1,000 a year on his drugs budget.

Holiday Reps
BBC1, 8.30pm

Here is another of those documentary series that works like a soap opera, with regular characters and running stories. The stars are young women in their early twenties employed by the travel company Unijet to keep British holidaymakers happy on Minorca and Lanzarote. "Think on your feet and be diplomatic" is the advice from their instructor, as they prepare for the gruelling six-month season. They are also given a warning about attentions from local men, though Eve immediately disregards it by dating a Spanish waiter. Will it last? Only future programmes will show. Sea, sand and possible romances notwithstanding, it seems a tough job. Trying to calm angry passengers held up at the airport is one thing. Comforting a family of three injured when a wall collapses is something else.

Dover
ITV, 8.30pm

With Eurotunnel providing a service that is not only much quicker but unbeholden to the weather, you might have feared for the future of Dover as a ferry port. But it has not happened yet and the millions of vehicles still passing through each year promise to offer plenty of material for this six-part series. The project has many echoes of the BBC documentary about Heathrow, another busy transit point with a rich store of human stories. Inevitably, perhaps, the customs officers threaten to take star billing, if only because everyone likes to see a villain unmasked. It does not quite happen tonight, though Scooby, the sniffer dog, does her best on a suspect Mondeo. As at Heathrow, too, passengers get lost and miss their connections, leaving hard-pushed staff to cool tempers and sort out the mess.

New rep Gaynor Fox (BBC1, 8.30pm)

Dispatches
Channel 4, 9.00pm

Not many people may know this but one of the measures introduced by the previous Labour Government in the 1970s was to grant tax relief to owners of historic homes and open countryside in return for public access. The trouble is that it is very difficult for the public to discover which properties are covered by the scheme. Even local authorities, who know, are not allowed to tell because of the stipulation that all tax affairs are confidential. Lord Barnett, the Cabinet minister responsible for the scheme, says it is not working as they intended. But the current Government appears to have no plans to "out" the owners. In a departure from conventional documentary practice, the argument is presented by the comedian Mark Thomas. It is no less cogent for being delivered in jocular terms. **Peter Waymark**

RADIO CHOICE

The Russ Abbot Show
Radio 2, 9.30pm

Russ Abbot was big on television for a few years, a fact which has its downside: once you stop being big on television, the impression spreads that you have either died or, even worse, gone to live in New Zealand. Abbot did neither and now makes a comeback in what is his first series for radio, though most of the scripts have been adapted from his various television series. Abbot is one of the masters of the corny joke and his best work is in the finest traditions of Chic Murray and Tommy Cooper. Tonight's show includes a sketch from the Battle of Rorke's Drift: Officer — "You'll stay here and fight with the other men." Sergeant — "I don't mind that sir, it's fighting with the Zulus that worries me."

Torremolinos: Beyond The Beaches
Radio 4, 8.45pm

The start of a three-part series on the Spanish resort where egg and bacon is easier to obtain than paella. It may sound awful, it may be awful, but the British still go there in vast numbers every year. Harry Ritchie's series does not dwell on how awful everything is, indeed there are plenty of British people who have moved to Torremolinos permanently. Instead Ritchie takes a look at how Torremolinos used to be (a trendy haunt for artists) and less well-known aspects of its present incarnation (such as the gay scene). Fans of great broadcasting flops will be fascinated to hear Ritchie's interview with Franco Rey, the Spanish actor who lives in the town. Wasn't he in . . . ? Yes, indeed, he was in *Eldorado*. **Peter Barnard**

RADIO 1

6.30am Kevin Greening and Zoë Ball **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Jo Whiley. Includes **12.30pm** Newsbeat **2.00** Mark Radcliffe **4.00** Dave Pearce **6.15** Newsbeat **6.30** Evening Session **8.30** Movie Update with Mark Kermode **8.40** John Peel **10.30** Mary Anne Hobbs **12.00** Blue Jam. A new offbeat comedy series **1.00am** Clive Warren **4.00** Chris Moyles

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** David Aaronovitch **1.30pm** Debbie Thrower **3.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** David Allan's Country Club **8.00** Paul Jones **9.00** Soul Provider **9.30** The Russ Abbot Show. See Choice **10.30** Richard Allinson **12.05am** Steve Madden **3.00** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am The Breakfast Programme **9.00** Nicky Campbell **12.00** Midday with Mair **2.00pm** Ruscoe on Five **4.00** Nationwide with Julian Worricker **7.00** News Extra **7.30** On the Line **8.00** Inside Edge with Rob Bonnet **9.00** SportsAmerica with Alton Byrd **9.30** Sportshop **10.00** News Talk **11.00** News Extra with David McNeil **12.00** After Hours **2.00am** Up All Night with Rhod Sharp **5.00** Morning Reports

VIRGIN RADIO

5.00am Jeremy Clark **7.00** Chris Evans **10.00** (FM) Robin Banks (AM) Graham Dene **1.00pm** (FM) Nick Abbot (MW) Nicky Horne **4.00** Russ 'n' Jono **7.00** (FM) Paul Coyte (AM) Calmin Jones **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00am** Richard Porter

TALK RADIO

6.30am Paul Ross and Carol McGiffen **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00** Lorraine Kelly **2.00pm** Tommy Boyd **4.00** Peter Deeley **7.00** Anne Raeburn **9.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

6.00am Newsday **6.30** Meridian Books **7.00** News **7.15** Off the Shelf: The Colour of Blood **7.30** Composer of the Month **8.00** News **8.10** Pause for Thought **8.15** Westway **8.30** The Ed Stewart Show **9.00** News; News in German (648 only) **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** Poems by Post **9.30** BBC English: Business File **9.45** Sports Roundup **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** Discovery **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** History Today **11.45** From Our Own Correspondent **12.00** News **12.05pm** World Business Report **12.15** Britain Today **12.30** Record News **12.45** Sports Roundup **1.00** Newshour **2.00** News **2.05** Outlook **2.30** Multitrack X-Press **3.00** News; News in German (648 only) **3.05** Sports Roundup **3.15** Westway **3.30** The Vintage Chart Show **4.00** News **4.15** Record News **4.30** The World Today; News in German (648 only) **4.45** Britain Today **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Sports Roundup **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** Assignment; News in German (648 only) **7.00** News Summary **7.01** Outlook **7.25** Pause for Thought **7.30** John Peel **8.00** Newshour **9.00** News **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** Britain Today **9.30** Meridian Books **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** The World Today **10.45** Sports Roundup **11.00** News **11.05** Outlook **11.30** John Peel **12.00** Newsdesk **12.30am** Westway **12.45** Britain Today **1.00** Newsdesk **1.30** Composer of the Week **2.00** Newsday **2.30** Focus on Faith **3.00** News **3.05** World Business Report **3.15** Sports Roundup **3.30** Assignment **4.00** Newsdesk **4.30** Europe Today **5.00** Newsday **5.30** Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Alan Mann. Includes Breakfast Baroque **9.00** Henry Kelly. Michael Barry's Classic Recipe is liver and onion casserole. Plus, the Classic Masterpiece **1.00pm** Listener Request Hour with Jane Jones **2.00** Concerto. Beethoven (Piano Concerto No 2 in B flat) **3.00** Jamie Crick **7.00** Newsnight with John Brunning **7.30** Sonata. Dauprat (Sonata for Bassoon and Harp) **8.00** Evening Concert. Franck (Symphonic Variations); Fauré (Incidental Music, Pelleas and Melisande); Grieg (Piano Concerto in A minor); Schedrin (Old Russian Circus); Lefebre-Wely (Postlude in B flat) **10.00** Michael Mappin **2.00am** Concerto (r) **3.00** Mark Griffiths

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor. Includes Respighi (Overture Belfagor); Handel (Cantata Clori, Mia Bella Clori); Dvořák (Slavonic Dances Nos 1 and 2); Copland (Four Dance Episodes, Rodeo); Beethoven (Overture King Stephen)
9.00 Morning Collection, with Peter Hobday. Johann Strauss, son (Waltz Morning Papers); Chopin (Three Mazurkas); Chopin (Four Mazurkas); Bernstein (West Side Story Symphonic Dances)
10.00 Musical Encounters, with Chris Wines. Mozart (Lucio Silla, excerpts); Handel (Air and Variations Suite in E, Harmonious Blacksmith); Brahms (Variations on a Theme by Handel); Bartok (String Quartet No 6); Bach (Violin Concerto in E)
12.00 Composer of the Week: Ligeti
1.00pm Verismo Voices. Includes excerpts from *La Gioconda, Madame Butterfly, Mefistofele, L'Arlesiana* and *La Fanciulla del West*. The voices include Gina Cigna, Scotto, Caballe, Simionato, Ponselle, Gigli, Siepi and Ruffo (r)
2.00 The BBC Orchestras. BBC National Orchestra of Wales under Martyn Brabbins, Mark Wigglesworth and Mariss Jansons, with Susan Bickley, mezzo, Nigel Robson, tenor. Michael Torke (Green); Mahler (Das Lied von der Erde); Brahms (Symphony No 3 in F)
4.00 Ensemble. Penny Gore introduces a recital by the young Finnish violinist Pekka Kuusisto, violin, winner of the 1995 International Sibelius Competition. With Raija Kerppo, piano. Prokofiev (Five Melodies); Sibelius (Romance, Rondino, Mazurka); Ravel (Violin Sonata) (r)
4.45 Music Machine, with Tommy Pearson
5.00 In Tune, with Sean Rafferty. Music includes work by Liszt, Mozart and Sibelius
7.30 Performance on 3 (Sounding the Century). Robin Haggart, tuba, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic under Vernon Handley. Elgar (Pomp and Circumstance March No 4 in G); Walton (Symphony No 2); Vaughan Williams (Tuba Concerto; Symphony No 4)
9.10 Postscript: Friends Who Disagree, with Professor Akbar Ahmed, Fellow of Selwyn College, Cambridge and the Right Rev. Dr Michael Nazir-Ali, Bishop of Rochester (4/5)
9.30 Songs and Proverbs, by Benjamin Britten performed by the composer and the baritone Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau at the Aldeburgh Festival
10.00 Music Restored. Anthony Rooley introduces an anniversary performance by the Gabrieli Consort and Players, under Paul McCreesh, of motets and instrumental canzonas from Giovanni Gabrieli's *Sacrae Symphoniae*, published 400 years ago
10.45 Night Waves. The Czech writer Ivan Klima talks to Hermione Lee about the recent history of Prague. Plus an interview with the medical historian Roy Porter about his new study, *The Medical History of Humanity*
11.30 Composer of the Week: Vaughan Williams (r)
12.30am Jazz Notes, with Digby Fairweather. Part two of the concert given by the Annie Whitehead Band at Kingston upon Hull's 1997 International Jazz Festival
1.00 Through the Night, with Donald Macleod

RADIO 4

5.55am (LW) Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today **8.40** Yesterday in Parliament **8.58** Weather
9.00 News 9.05 The Moral Maze. A new series with Michael Buerk chairing live investigations into the moral questions behind the week's news. With David Cook, Janet Daley, Michael Mansfield, QC, and Dr David Starkey
10.00 (FM) News; A Caribbean Mystery. Agatha Christie's novel, dramatised by Michael Bakewell. Starring June Whitfield as Miss Marple (3/5)
10.00 (LW) Daily Service
10.15 (LW) On This Day, with Geoffrey Wheeler
10.30 Woman's Hour. Introduced by Jenni Murray
11.30 From Our Own Correspondent. News from BBC reporters around the world
12.00 News; You and Yours, with Mark Whittaker
12.25pm Inspiration. Chris Stuart is joined at the Science Museum by team captains Professor Lewis Wolpert and Adam Hart-Davis **12.55** Weather
1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke
1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; Thursday Afternoon Play: Wasteland, by Nigel Moffat. With Adjoa Andoh, Eddie Nestor and Jillie Meers
3.00 News; Afternoon Shift, with Daire Brehan
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Paul Allen talks to Geoffrey Rush, star of the highly-acclaimed film *Shine*, as he produces a play
4.45 Short Story: Windfall, by Dorothy K. Haynes, read by Crawford Logan
5.00 PM, with Clare English and Charlie Lee-Potter **5.50** Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 On the Town with the League of Gentlemen. More dark humour with Steve Pemberton, Reece Shearsmith, Mark Gatiss and Jeremy Dyson
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 Document: Thin Ice. The story of Stephen Weeks, who, while directing a film in 1984, became the victim of an extensive insurance fraud (2/6)
8.00 Analysis: People Behaving Oddly. Michael Blastland examines a growing reassessment of fundamental economic attitudes and behaviour
8.45 Torremolinos: Beyond the Beaches. See Choice (1/3)
9.00 Does He Take Sugar? With Frederick Dove
9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) **9.59** Weather
10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig
10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Clothes They Stood Up In. Written and read by Alan Bennett, abridged by Gillian Hush (4/7)
11.00 Thirty Minute Theatre: Party and Chips with Scraps, by Mandy Precious. This year's Alfred Bradley Bursary Award-winner for verse drama. With Rita Tushingham and Ravin J. Ganatra (r)
11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament
11.30 (FM) Offspring, with John Peel (r)
12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: Funny Boy. Gary Pillai reads Shyam Selvadurai's story (9/10)
12.48 Shipping Forecast
1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089. **Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.**

Your children's first lesson in competition

All that any devoted parent wants is to be able to educate his offspring in a way which ensures that one proud day — God willing — that child will be able to show off the fruits of his education by looking his doting father straight in the eye and saying: "Dad, don't be so stupid!"

The hunt for just such an education becomes more frantic every day as even left-leaning parents lose faith in their local state school, and as newly wealthy people start buying private education for the same reason they start buying Mercedes: because they can now afford it, and the badge *looks* impressive — with private schools having the bonus over a Mercedes that nobody actually *tries to steal your school badge*. There *is*, of course, a way of ensuring that your child gets a top-class education from a state school — even if you live well outside its catchment area — but it involves becoming Prime Minister first. Actually it may be easier to become PM than to get into many private schools in London.

"The climate," according to Alan, father of ten-year-old Lea, "is one of panic. The current system creates winners and losers — and obviously you want your kid to be among the winners." Private education is against everything that Alan — himself a privately educated American — stands for. But in the end he had the moral courage to abandon his principles and cram his daughter for the entrance exam for Palmers Green High School for Girls, the subject of last night's **Modern Times** (BBC2).

Its headmistress, Sian Grant, pegs the hurdles high, so only the keenest jumpers get a place. That goes for 2½-year-olds trying for the nursery section, too. "It's obviously important for our marketing strategy that we have a good appearance in the league tables," said Mrs Grant. "People see our girls walking along the streets and they say to them. 'Where do you go to school?' They are our best marketing tool: they are our product and we're proud of them."

If Mrs Grant thought that letting her school appear on the BBC would swell the number of applications, then she might have miscalculated. Last week, the grubby greed of Liverpool's Adelphi Hotel on the day the IRA blighted the Grand National, which we witnessed in the new fly-on-the-wall series *Hotel*, must have persuaded many viewers to look elsewhere for a room the next time they are seeking a bed in Liverpool. After hearing Mrs Grant and her fellow teachers sniff under their breath that one girl was "quite a confident little thing, but I'm not sure about the background", or that another was "a bit of a pudding, really", I wonder

REVIEW

Joe Joseph

whether parents will now shuffle their little girls towards Palmers Green with quite the same gusto.

Lea, who was offered an interview (and later a place, which her conscience-stricken parents declined in favour of a selective state school), was smart enough to know that she should be economical with the truth when the time came to meet Mrs Grant: "I'll try not to lie that much," she lied, "but I'll have to stretch the truth a bit." A life in politics beckons for Lea: this engaging girl could be penning the anti-foxhunting and tobacco advertising sections of new Labour's next manifesto before you or I could say Formula One.

And when the headmistress asked Lea in her interview what she would most like to change in the world if given the chance, it became clear that Lea had soaked up more pressure than betrayed by her confident smile. "The schooling system," she replied, forgetting to lie. "Because I don't like tests. Some people break under their nerves. And I think it's so awful that some people, if they don't get into the school of their choice, then sometimes get so unhappy, and it almost ruins their life." For the first time in the programme, breezy Mrs Grant looked as if she *felt slightly uncomfortable*. Though that didn't stop her pushing the next bunch of 2½-year-olds through two tests before considering them for a nursery place.

Lord knows what Mrs Grant would make of the girls in **Witness: Blooming Youth** (Channel 4), which spent an hour eavesdropping on under-age, mostly inarticulate teenagers talking about snogging and sex. The director, Witold Starecki, said he was aiming "to make a film that gets right inside their experiences. This is real-life drama of teenage life that has more power and intensity than any soap... teenagers are breaking the rules." Crikey! We never thought we'd see *that* being done again in our lifetimes.

Like a teasing girl who doesn't go all the way, it was a letdown. If you've ever been a teenager yourself, nothing here came as much of a surprise. As one of the mothers said to her daughter: "I was 15 once, you know!" If you've got your own 14-year-old, you had probably heard all this stuff first-hand anyway, which must have made it as entrancing as waching a stranger on television perform any other aspect of your domestic routine, such as putting the bins out (except, maybe, if you're Woody Allen). Starecki needs closer parental supervision and should seek his Mummy's permission before making another documentary.

As it happens, **Home Front** (BBC2) introduced us to the concept of the "Rent-a-Mom", an American called Sandee Corshen. She comes to your house and nags you to tidy up your room. Or "to make the most of your storage space", as she puts it — though not the best of your wallet space: she charges $250 an hour. Who knows, if she also does your worrying for you while your ten-year-old girl takes her Palmers Green exam, or 14-year-old son asks for condom-money, she might even be worth it.

BBC1

6.00 am Business Breakfast (72416)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (77874)

9.00 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (5648226)

9.25 Style Challenge (5723961)

9.50 Kilroy (T) (5623413)

10.30 Change That (9985315)

10.55 The Really Useful Show (T) (7945685)

11.35 Real Rooms The makeover team transform a Plymouth journalist's dowdy study into an inspirational retreat (7510446)

12.00 News (T); regional news and weather (6335597)

12.05 pm Call My Bluff (4868315)

12.35 Give Us A Clue (2354394)

1.00 News (T) and weather (70961)

1.30 Regional News (T) (84548706)

1.40 The Weather Show (59926771)

1.45 Neighbours (T) (44488139)

2.05 Quincy (r) (2048684)

2.55 Terry and June (r) (7138077)

3.30 Funnybones (1216868) **3.35** Playdays (r) (8298400) **3.55** The Silver Brumby (8372416) **4.20** Mr Wymi (T) (9161690) **4.35** Smart (T) (1995329) **5.00** Newsround (T) (5556752) **5.10** Byker Grove (T) (9407752)

5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (414400)

6.00 News (T) and weather (139)

6.30 Regional News Magazine (T) (619)

7.00 Watchdog with Anne Robinson Consumer magazine (T) (6597)

7.30 EastEnders Joe pours out his heart and begs Sarah for forgiveness — will she take him back? (T) (503)

8.00 Animal Hospital An ambulance driver rescues a very hungry cat (T) (8145)

8.30 Holiday Reps A six-part series following the 1997 summer season through the eyes of the tour operators' representatives (T) (4752)

9.00 News (T); regional news and weather (9232)

9.30 Men Behaving Badly: Wedding Gary and Dorothy are struck by last-minute nerves on their wedding day, but they can rest assured — best man Tony has taken charge of the final preparations (T) (54394)

10.00 They Think It's All Over Nick Hancock hosts the fast-moving sports quiz, with guests Tony Banks, the Minister for Sport, and John Maloney (T) (11145)

10.30 Clive Anderson All Talk The guests are Ben Elton and Neil Hamilton (24665)

11.00 Question Time The panel is Brian Wilson, MP, John Redwood, MP, Hugh Dykes and Joan Smith (T) (579706)

12.05am Betrayal of Silence (1989) Meg Foster stars as an assistant district attorney defending a young girl who has made serious allegations against the head of a renowned foster home. Courtroom drama with Joanne Vannicola and Alex Carter. Directed by Jeffrey Woolnough (T) (3851288) **WALES:** Auntie — the Inside Story (6237559) 1.05 News and weather (9700511) 1.10 BBC News 24

1.35 Weather (9430153)

1.40 Join BBC News 24 (5603733)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

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BBC2

7.00am See Hear Breakfast News (T) (9680413)

7.15 Teletubbies (r) (4019936) **7.40** Smurfs' Adventures (r) (2466077) **8.05** Blue Peter (r) (T) (2046874) **8.30** Mouse and Mole (r) (9777226) **8.35** Johnson and Friends (r) (4664400) **8.45** The Record (9669955)

9.10 Numbertime (1096413) **9.25** Megamaths (T) (2246110) **9.45** Come Outside (4556684) **10.00** Teletubbies (66226) **10.30** Storytime (3014923) **10.45** The Experimenter (2469752) **11.05** Space Ark (8468874) **11.15** Zig Zag (1753787) **11.35** English File (8061936) **11.55** Lifeschool (4461972) **12.20pm** Showcase (6337955)

12.30 Working Lunch (65400) **1.00** Barney (30043446) **1.05** Monty (31493987) **1.10** The Art and Antiques Hour (6406868)

2.10 Going, Going, Gone (62649619) **2.40** News (T) (3418868) **2.45** Westminster (T) (7175597) **3.25** News (T) (8186874) **3.30** The Village (r) (597) **3.58** Fit for a Queen (8233868)

4.00 Ready, Steady, Cook (232) **4.30** Through the Keyhole (T) (1814400) **4.55** Esther (9661955) **5.30** Today's the Day (868)

6.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine Odo is rushed to his homeworld when a mystery illness strikes, but an unpleasant surprise awaits him (T) (266597)

6.45 Hit, Miss or Maybe (r) (838752)

7.00 The Whitbread (4139)

7.30 First Sight Robin Gibson reports on how duty-free bootleggers are using Dover as a base through which to conduct their illegal activities (145) **WALES:** Just One Chance

8.00 Just One Chance Inside information on children's education for parents. This week, a look at parental choice (T) (6787) **WALES:** Nobel Causes

8.30 Top Gear Jeremy Clarkson test-drives the Land Rover Freelander (T) (2394)

9.00 Third Rock from the Sun Dick takes up the cause of animal rights after hitting a chipmunk (T) (651771)

9.25 Horizon: Antarctica The last of three Antarctic specials deals with global warming, revealing what would happen if the West Antarctic Ice Sheet melted (T) (891058)

Kylie Minogue stars (10.15pm)

10.15 Expanding Pictures New series of experimental shorts. The first stars Kylie Minogue (T) (532464)

10.30 Newsnight (T) (752752) **11.15** Late Review (697810) **11.55** Weather (620619) **12.00** The Midnight Hour (45172)

12.30am BBC Learning Zone: The Making of Ann Summers 12.35 World Painters **2.00** Living and Working in Europe **4.00** Teaching Film and Media **4.30** Film Education **5.00** Teacher Training **5.30** North South Linking **6.00** The Global Car Industry **6.30** Which Body? (5631356)

HTV

6.00am GMTV (4283416)

9.25 Supermarket Sweep (T) (5636481)

9.55 Regional News (T) (6153110)

10.00 The Time, the Place (53752)

10.30 This Morning (T) (48439955)

12.20pm Regional News (T) (6324481)

12.30 ITN Lunchtime News (T) (2453619)

12.55 Shortland Street (2358110)

1.25 Home and Away (T) (58642333)

1.50 The Rockford Files (r) (T) (5707936)

2.50 Vanessa (8799771)

3.20 News (T) (8181329)

3.25 Regional News (T) (8000400)

3.30 Potamus Park (3005348) **3.40** Wizadora (1214400) **3.50** Kipper (1210684) **4.00** Sylvester and Tweety (9070394) **4.15** Jumanji (4666446) **4.40** Out of Sight (9041329)

5.10 A Country Practice (r) (T) (9032503)

5.40 ITN Early Evening News (T) (760706)

6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (504503)

6.25 Regional Weather (T) (317684)

6.30 Regional News (T) (787)

7.00 Emmerdale Jack breaks Sarah's ground rules (T) (1685)

7.30 WALES: Wales This Week (771)

7.30 The Big Story: Girls Behaving Badly A look at the hype surrounding "girl power" (771)

8.00 The Bill Loxton gets in trouble (1923)

Patrolman Les Godley (8.30pm)

8.30 Dover New documentary series that goes behind the scenes at the port of Dover (T) (2348)

9.00 Thief Takers: Sister in Arms The team are left baffled by a spate of gem robberies until two sparring sisters attempt a robbery that goes horribly wrong (8042)

10.00 News at Ten (T) (33313)

10.30 Regional News (T) (150400)

10.40 In the Shadow of Evil (1994) Thriller with Treat Williams, Margaret Colin and Timothy Busfield. Directed by Daniel Sackheim (41724481)

12.20am WALES: The Big Story (1161820)

12.20 Short Story Cinema: Under the Car (r) (1161820)

12.50 The LADS (T) (6978153)

1.25 Funny Business (6712608)

1.55 The Loop (r) (8537462)

2.20 Late and Loud (r) (4147545)

3.20 The Good Sex Guide Late (r) (4249443)

4.15 Jones and Jury (r) (54063820)

4.30 The Time, the Place (r) (11288)

5.00 The Pulse (T) (80820)

5.30 News (40627)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:

12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (2358110)

5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (9032503)

5.59-6.00 Air Watch (155771)

6.25 Central News (416394)

6.55-7.00 Lifeline (451232)

10.40 The MOBO Awards (8501619)

11.55 Alfred Hitchcock Presents (577313)

12.25am Sound Bites (5456630)

12.40 Funny Business (6989269)

1.15 Planet Mirth (6725172)

1.40 Rockmania (9667917)

2.40 God's Gift (6982269)

3.35 Late and Loud (3104269)

4.30 Central Jobfinder '97 (2052795)

5.20 Asian Eye (9301424)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:

12.20pm-12.30 Illuminations (6324481)

12.55 Home and Away (7352771)

1.20-1.50 Emmerdale (79452771)

5.10-5.40 Home and Away (9032503)

6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (40145)

12.20am Weekly World News (1161820)

4.35 The Time, the Place (93744356)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:

5.10pm-5.40 Home and Away (9032503)

6.00 Meridian Tonight (435)

6.30-7.00 Rural Rides (787)

12.20am Live at Jongleurs (1161820)

4.35 Beyond Reason (93744356)

5.00 Freescreen (80820)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except:

12.55-1.25 What's My Line? (2358110)

5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (9032503)

6.25 Anglia News (416394)

6.55-7.00 What's On (451232)

12.20am The Making of a Life Less Ordinary (1161820)

4.35 The Time, the Place (93744356)

S4C

Starts: 7.00 The Big Breakfast (97684)

9.00 Ysgolion (182771)

11.30 Powerhouse (3435)

12.00 Sesame Street (30226)

12.30pm Ricki Lake (67868)

1.00 Slot Meithrin (41313482)

1.15 Wil Cwac Cwac (46363987)

1.30 Film: I Was a Male War Bride (70619)

3.30 Collector's Lot (665)

4.00 Fifteen-to-One (400)

4.30 The Lonely Planet (684)

5.00 5 Pump (2771)

5.30 Countdown (936)

6.00 Newyddion (977435)

6.10 Heno (344329)

7.00 Pobol y Cwm (618690)

7.25 Penblwydd Hapus (801139)

8.00 Os Byw Ac Iach (8955)

8.30 Newyddion (3690)

9.00 Heliwr (2435)

11.00 Brookside (542941)

11.35 Dispatches (709435)

12.20am Bombay Blue (6219153)

1.20-1.50 Natural Born Healers (6744207)

CHANNEL 4

5.55am Sesame Street (92226) **7.00** The Big Breakfast (97684)

9.00 Schools: History in Action (2252771) **9.20** Geographical Eye (T) (2345435) **9.40** The Maths Programme (T) (7877690) **10.00** Middle English (T) (1864987) **10.15** Le Petite Monde de Pierre (9260508) **10.30** Scientific Eye (T) (2470597) **10.50** Film and Video Showcase (2556961) **11.10** The Spanish Programme (1676684)

11.30 Powerhouse Political magazine (3435) **12.00** Sesame Street (30226) **12.30pm** Light Lunch (2630787) **1.25** Gardens without Borders (r) (83319067)

1.40 Seven Thieves (1960) starring Edward G. Robinson as a disgraced scientist who plans a casino heist with the help of six specialists. With Rod Steiger, Eli Wallach and Joan Collins. Henry Hathaway directs (T) (15200955)

3.30 Collector's Lot (T) (665) **4.00** Fifteen-to-One (T) (400) **4.30** Countdown (T) (1816868) **4.55** Ricki Lake (T) (9656023) **5.30** Pet Rescue (T) (936)

6.00 Boy Meets World Rites-of-passage comedy (T) (357)

6.30 Hollyoaks Teen soap (T) (329)

7.00 Channel 4 News (T) (366961)

7.50 Golden Oldies Another golden wedding celebration (211481)

Dianne Shorten (8.00pm)

8.00 Natural Born Healers *Herbalism is the subject of the first in a six-part series on complementary medicine.* Focusing on a natural treatment for migraine sufferer Dianne Shorten (T) (8955)

8.30 Brookside Jacqui is delighted when Barry sets the ball rolling with Callum, but what is she letting herself in for? (T) (3690)

9.00 Dispatches A light-hearted look at the Conditionally Exempt Land and Building Scheme (T) (710139)

9.45 Lloyds Bank Film Challenge: Nurse Ajax Comedy drama about a hospital cleaner. Written by Colin Blytheway and directed by Ed Fraiman (1/6) (T) (930482)

10.00 Streets of Fire Drama documentary series about the work of the Baltimore City Fire Department (2/3) (2819145)

11.05 Babylon 5 Garibaldi's plot to overthrow the government escalates (T) (370787)

12.00 Dope Sheet Magazine series about animation (2/3) (1165646)

12.25am Animation Animated shorts with an erotic theme (32062998)

2.40 Rage and Outrage Ute Lemper performs a cabaret based on the Dreyfus case (r) (2226998)

3.40 J'Accuse: Philip Larkin (r) (56771511)

4.10 J'Adore: The M25 (r) (41753795)

4.35 The American Football Big Match (r) (9695375)

CHANNEL 5

CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE

Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are picture: 10.92075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz

6.00am 5 News Early (2685597)

7.30 Milkshake (4348139) **7.35** Stickin' Around (r) (6805690) **8.00** Havakazoo (r) (7144315)

8.30 WideWorld: A Migrant's Heart Documentary series about human migration (5/10) (8594856)

9.00 Espresso Consumer affairs magazine (2620042) **10.00** Exclusive (r) (8727394) ***10.30** Dwellers of the Deep: Citizens of the Coral* (8699400)

11.00 Leeza Chat show chaired by Leeza Gibbons (7455348) **11.50** Double Espresso (94639348) **12.00** The Bold and the Beautiful (T) (4994892) **12.30pm** Family Affairs (r) (T) (8562481)

1.00 5 News Update (97048067) **1.05** Sunset Beach (T) (3351955) **2.00** 5's Company. Live entertainment show (8329023)

3.30 The First of the Few (1942, b/w). A Second World War propaganda movie telling the story of R.J. Mitchell, the designer of the Spitfire. Starring Leslie Howard, who also directed, and David Niven (2689313)

5.30 Whittle Audience participation game show (T) (3889503)

6.00 100 Per Cent Quiz without a host (3886416)

6.30 Family Affairs Weekday soap. Holly suggests a gay night (T) (3704868)

7.00 Exclusive Showbusiness gossip (5395042)

7.30 Dwellers of the Deep: Million Dollar Weed The fight to keep California kelp in its undersea forests (T) (3793752)

8.00 Was It Good for You? Holiday advice. John Leslie and Ailsa Greenhalgh travel to Barbados (5477690)

8.30 5 News (T) (5380597)

Berenger, Goldblum, Kline (9pm)

9.00 The Big Chill (1983) Kevin Kline, Tom Berenger and Jeff Goldblum star in this tale of a group of thirtysomethings whose college friendships, rivalries and passions are renewed at the funeral of a friend. Directed by Lawrence Kasdan (9786313)

11.00 The Jack Docherty Show Chat and comedy (4324597)

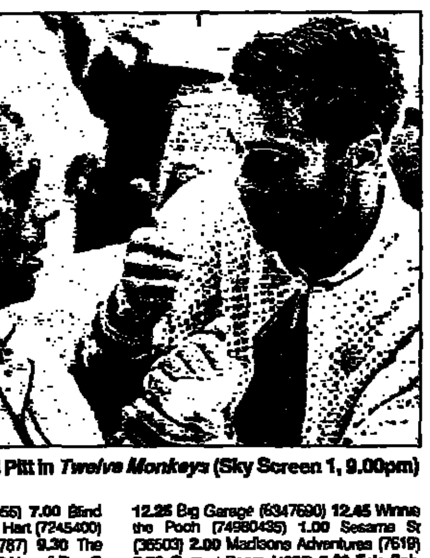
11.45 Melrose Place (r) (T) (7159435)

12.40am Live and Dangerous (32485066)

4.35 The Streets of San Francisco: Men Will Die Police drama series. A rape victim gets even (T) (7455917)

5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (2618207)

SATELLITE AND CABLE



Bruce Willis and Brad Pitt in *Twelve Monkeys* (Sky Screen 1, 9.00pm)

● For further listings see Saturday's *Vision*

SKY 1

6.00am Morning Glory (573394) **9.00** Regis and Kathie Lee (42787) **10.00** Another World (38965) **11.00** Days of Our Lives (21619) **12.00** Oprah Winfrey (65969) **1.00pm** Geraldo (60787) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (87787) **3.00** Jenny Jones (83333) **4.00** Oprah Winfrey (92058) ***5.00** Star Trek: Voyager* (6752) **6.00** The Live 6 Show (2232) **6.30** Married...with Children (2464) **7.00** The Simpsons (7481) **7.30** Real TV (6968) ***8.00** Suddenly Susan* (6329) **8.30** The Nanny (2838) **9.00** Seinfeld (18042) **9.30** Mad About You (15428) **10.00** ER (26961) **11.00** Star Trek: Voyager (39694) **12.00** Late Show with David Letterman (31578) **1.00am** In the Heat of the Night (84733) **2.00** Long Play (5475289)

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 1

6.00am Breaking Away (1979) (26163874) **7.45 Heart Like a Wheel** (1983) (244232) **9.45 Shadow Makers** (1989) (256597) **11.45 Danger Route** (1968) (57757058) **1.30pm The Best Little Girl in the World** (1981) (48315) **3.00 Breaking Away** (1979) (21400) **5.00 Heart Like a Wheel** (1983) (57961) **7.00 Unstrung Heroes** (1995) (35868) **9.00 Twelve Monkeys** (1995) (20901503) **11.15 Harrison: Cry of the City** (1995) (224690) **12.50am Blue Sky** (1994) (711849) **2.30 Deceived by Trust** (1995) (46733) **4.00 Rumpelstiltskin** (1995) (26207)

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 2

6.00am They Knew What They Wanted (1940) (64145) **8.00 I Walked with a Zombie** (1943) (2261503) **9.10 The Leopard Man** (1943) (6950587) **10.30 Radiant City** (1996) (38936) **12.00 The Battle of the Villa Fiorita** (1965) (92232) **2.00pm Joy of Living** (1938) (44955) **4.00 The Next Karate Kid** (1994) (9226) **6.00 Radiant City** (1996) (62756706) **7.40 US Top 10** (327481) **8.00 Jack and Sarah** (1995) (36936) **10.00 The Demolitionist** (1996) (240023) **11.35 Red Shoe Diaries: Four on the Floor** (1996) (394597) **1.05am Tyson** (1995) (279714) **2.55 Cup Final** (1991) (631511) **4.45 Joe at the Kingdom of the Bees** (1972) (2913920)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm Fort Apache (1948) (1212329) ***6.00 The Secret of My Success*** (1987) (2623868) **8.00 Beetlejuice** (1988) (2628313) **10.00 Serpico** (1973) (64543597) **12.15am All the Right Moves** (1983) (2177795) **1.45 Housekeeping** (1987) (2532424) **3.45** Close

TNT

9.00pm The Broken Chain (1993) (89470684) **11.00 Lust for Life** (1956) (38247619) **1.15am Savage Messiah** (1972) (54157153) **3.00 Night Must Fall** (1964) (31920375) ***5.00** Close*

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre (66110) **7.30** Beachcomber Soccer Sevens (10139) **8.30** Sports Centre (71110) **9.00** Racing News (68690) **9.30** Aerobics (15042) **10.00** Sports Unlimited (56329) **11.00** International Climbathon (63665) ***12.00** Aerobics* (92226) **12.30pm** FA Cup Special — Year of the Giant Killers (84226) **2.30** Pool (62705) **3.30** V-Max (4282) **4.00** Esprit (7139) **4.30** Inside the Senior PGA Tour (6023) **5.00** Beachcomber Soccer Sevens (1226) **6.00** Sports Centre (5836) **6.30** Football League Review (8868) **7.00** Ringside (67874) **9.00** Spanish Primera Liga (74110) **10.00** Sports Centre (83855) **10.30** Offshore Powerboats (65503) **11.00** Pool (57055) **12.00** Sports Centre (30288) **12.30am** The Rugby Club (31240) **2.00** Ringside (73288) **3.00** Spanish Primera Liga (87171) **5.00** Sports Centre (64820) **5.30** Close

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics (1662905) **7.30** Sports Centre (7163990) **8.00** Racing (8014139) **8.30** Fish TV (9471961) **9.30** Golf Extra (6167435) **1.00pm** Rebel Sports (2885510) **2.00** Offshore Powerboats (2569955) **2.30** Watersports World (4477139) **3.30** FA Cup Special — Year of the Giant Killers (1627868) **5.30** Football League Review (9986077) **6.00** Powerboat and Jetski World (9976690) **6.30** Inside the PGA Tour (8894042) **7.00** Sports Centre (2583771) **7.30** Rugby Club (8031348) **9.00** Ringside (2521503) **10.00** Trans World Sport (2524690) **11.00** Tight Lines (1631023) **12.00** Football League Review (8978066) **12.30am** Best and Worst (3689917) **1.00** Sports Centre (3784088) **1.30** Trans World Sport (2633158) **2.30** Close

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00pm Beachcomber Soccer Sevens (62824313) **1.00** Fish TV (62908961) **2.00** Sportsfile (30786771) **2.30** Golden Age of Motor Racing (98297348) **3.30** Sport USA (10472329) **5.00** Windsurfing (30777023) **5.30** Pool (35093232) **6.30** Best and Worst (55057110) **7.00** Tight Lines (89568435) **8.00** Trans World Sport (89479955) **9.00** Athletics (84370400) **9.30** Powerboat and Jetski World (62825042) **10.00** Football Scrapbook (15920936) ***11.30** Close*

EUROSPORT

7.30am Golf: Estoril Grand Final (63085) ***8.30** Motors Magazine* (94329) **9.30** 4x4 Off-Road (20810) **10.00** Motorsports Magazine (78597) **11.00** Football: France v Scotland (98077) **1.00pm** ATP World Championship (7951619) **4.30** Paul Ricard Vintage Rally (4619) **5.00** World Cup Dream Team (6477) **5.30** ATP World Championship — Live (327042) **8.30** Night of the Prospects (27058) **9.30** Football: Brazil v Cameroon (11418) **11.30** Sailing (42684) **12.00** 4x4 Off-Road (25356) **12.30am** Close

UK GOLD

7.00am Worzel Gummidge (2345413) **7.35** Neighbours (8469706) **8.00** Crossroads (3161394) **8.25** EastEnders (1558771) **9.00** The Bill (8171058) **9.30** Howards' Way (8101418) ***10.00** Bless This House* (8426874) **10.30** The Sullivans (8097042) **11.00** Boon (4370348) **12.00** Crossroads (14942874) **12.25pm** Neighbours (14945961) **12.55** EastEnders (1124771) **1.30** Hi-De-Hi (3578706) **2.10** No Place Like Home (7024058) **2.50** Are You Being Served? (2600481) **3.30** The Bill (7911394) **4.00** Casualty (78974139) **5.05** EastEnders (6790868) **5.40** Bob's Full House (7494690) **6.25** That's Showbusiness (6355394) **7.00** It Ain't Half Hot, Mum (4775787) **7.45** No Place Like Home (2066446) **8.20** Citizen Smith (1966058) **9.00** The Bill (1706023) **9.30** Taggart (25989139) **10.35** The Man from Auntie (1299874) **11.15** The Jack Dee Show (4582868) **11.50 FILM: Blind Vision** (1990) (2844023) **1.50am** Miami Vice (41916801) **2.20** Shopping (67055559)

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am The Box (6514810) **7.00** Coronation St (8356597) **7.30** Families (8431232) **8.00** Surprise Surprise (8446874) **9.00** Upstairs, Downstairs (3064139) **10.00** The Professionals (8437418) **11.00** Hart to Hart (8344752) **12.00** Coronation St (6588078) **12.30pm** Families (2968077) **1.00** Blind Date (2954232) **2.00** Upstairs, Downstairs (3520232) **3.00** Donahue (9620868) **4.00** The Professionals (9705503) **5.00** Hawaii Five-O (1603981) **6.00** Families (2747503) **6.30** Coronation St (2665955) **7.00** Blind Date (7238752) **8.00** Hart to Hart (7245400) **9.00** Coronation St (8701787) **9.30** The Comedians (2673313) ***10.00** Hawaii Five-O* (7235023) **11.00** Close

CARLTON SELECT (cable)

5.00pm Gridlock (30782955) **5.30** Hey Dad !! (55154077) **6.00** Blockbusters (55144690) **6.30** Country Practice (55062042) **7.00** My Two Wives (30875619) **7.30** Relative Strangers (55068226) **8.00** Desmond's (30788139) **8.30** Life After Birth (30863874) **9.00** Boon (89484023) **10.00** Delentero (89467110) **11.00** St Elsewhere (84505232) **12.00** Us and Them (15911288) **12.30am** Tales of the Unexpected (34672849)

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Dumbo's Circus (48955) **6.30** Umbrella Tree (32874) **7.00** Aladdin: The Series (63232) **7.30** Quack Pack (56139) **8.00** Dinosaurs (13619) **8.30** Bonkers (69990) **9.00** Gummi Bears (26042) **9.30** Grounding Marsh (1809400) **9.55** Microscopic Milton (8326110) **10.00** Sesame St (75023) **11.00** Winnie the Pooh (5860706) **11.15** Rosie and Jim (8739416) **11.35** Sing Me a Story (1847587) **12.00** Tots TV (6262955) **12.20pm** Shorts (6874329) **12.25** Big Garage (6347690) **12.45** Winnie the Pooh (74980435) **1.00** Sesame St (36503) **2.00** Madisons Adventures (7619) ***2.30** Gummi Bears* (4058) ***3.00** Tale Spin* (3226) **3.30** Goof Troop (9503) **4.00** Timon and Pumbaa (5110) **4.30** Aladdin: The Series (1394) **5.00** Gargoyles (8771) **5.30** *Dinosaurs* (8874) **6.00** Blossom (5787) **6.30** Boy Meets World (3139) **7.00** Home Improvement (1435) **7.30** Wonder Years (2023) **8.00 FILM: Running Wild** (1995) (18226) ***9.30** Home Improvement* (55684)

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Dally **6.30** Billy the Cat **7.00** Pinocchio **7.30** Power Rangers Zeo **8.00** Beetleborgs **8.30** Masked Rider **9.00** Magic Box **9.30** Dudley the Dragon **10.00** Inspector Gadget **10.30** Samurai Pizza Cats **11.00** Sweet Valley High **12.00** Ace Ventura **12.30pm** Casper **1.00** The Tick **1.30** Iron Man **2.00** Fantastic Four **2.30** Power Rangers Zeo **3.00** Beetleborgs **3.30** Masked Rider **4.00** Ace Ventura **4.30** Casper **5.00** The Tick **5.30** X Men **6.00** Spiderman **6.30** Sweet Valley High **7.00** Close

TCC

6.00am Happily Ever After **6.30** Bobby's World **7.00** Spirou **7.30** Dennis the Menace **8.00** Batman **8.30** Bots Master **9.00** Art Attack **9.30** Earthworm Jim **10.00** Gravedale High **10.30** Flash Gordon **11.00** Iznogoud ***11.30** Gigantor **12.00** Gravedale High* **12.30pm** Bots Master **1.00** Batman **1.30** Eek **2.00** Spirou **2.30** Flash Gordon **3.00** Sonic **3.30** Earthworm Jim **4.00** Dennis the Menace **4.30** Art Attack **5.00** Close

CARTOON NETWORK

All your favourite cartoons broadcast from **5.00am** to **9.00pm**, seven days a week.

NICKELODEON

6.00am Killer Tomatoes **6.30** Aaahh! Real Monsters **7.00** Hey Arnold! **7.30** Rugrats **8.00** Doug **8.30** Neverending Story **9.00** CBBC **10.00** Wimzie's House **10.30** Babar **11.00** Magic School Bus **11.30** Bananas in Pyjamas **12.00** Wombles etc **12.30pm** Astro Farm etc **1.00** Dr Seuss **1.30** Little Bear Stories **2.00** Animal Show **2.30** CBBC **3.30** Rocko/Doug **4.00** Angry Beavers **4.30** Rugrats **5.00** Sister Sister **5.30** Kenan and Kel ***6.00** Sabrina **6.30** Moesha **7.00** Close*

TROUBLE

12.00pm Swan's Crossing **12.30** Ready or Not **1.00** *Madison* **1.30** *California Dreams* **2.00** Saved by the Bell **2.30** Swan's Crossing **3.00** 9-2-5 **3.30** Ready or Not **4.00** Saved by the Bell **4.30** USA High **5.00** Hangtime ***5.30** California Dreams* **6.00** On the Make **6.15** Teenage Adventurers **6.30** Madison **7.00** Hangtime **7.30** USA High

CHALLENGE TV

5.00pm Cross Wits **5.30** Say the Word **6.00** Family Fortunes **6.30** Catchphrase **7.15** $64,000 Question **8.00** Split Second **8.30** *Move on Up* ***9.15** Winner Takes All* **10.00** Treasure Hunt **11.15** Whittle **12.00** Say the Word **12.30am** Hart to Hart **1.30** Big Valley **2.30** Big Brother Jake **3.00** Boogies Diner **3.30** Where I Live **4.00** Snowy River: The McGregor Saga **5.00** Shopping

BRAVO

8.00pm A-Team (6438481) **9.00** Tour of Duty (6521145) **10.00** Red Shoe Diaries (8907706) **10.45 FILM: Parasite** (4416348) **12.45am** Tour of Duty (6034086) **1.45** Red Shoe Diaries (7317022) **2.30 FILM: Wild Search** (4089172) **4.30** The Head (6265511) **5.00** A-Team (6368917)

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Grace Under Fire (5987) **7.30** Roseanne (5394) **8.00** Ellen (2145) **8.30** Cybill (8752) **9.00** Cheers (34058) **9.30** Taxi (20856) **10.00** Frasier (81597) **10.30** Kenny Everett (83145) **11.00** Festival of Fun (39503) ***11.30** Ellen* (28058) ***12.00** Roseanne* (21530) **12.30am** Nightstand (82153) **1.00** Soap (55289) **1.30** Taxi (94646) **2.00** Festival of Fun (16443) **2.30** Grace Under Fire (35578) **3.00** Fraser (68733) **3.30** Kenny Everett (19530) **4.00** Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

8.00pm Sightings (4517771) **9.00 FILM: Bombshell** (1996) (4690058) **11.00** Friday the 13th (2820771) **12.00** Sightings (6673714) **1.00am** The Twilight Zone (6665424) **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected (1576004) **2.00** Dark Shadows (1056356) **2.30** New Alfred Hitchcock (1068191) **3.00** Friday the 13th (7770795) **4.00** Close

HOME & LEISURE

9.00am Joy of Painting (8099400) **9.30** Garden Club (9109058) **10.00** Great Gardening Plot (8424416) **10.30** New Yankee Workshop (8095684) **11.00** Rex Hunt (1899329) **11.30** Hometime (1890058) **12.00** Close Guide (8086936) **12.30pm** This Old House (9103874) **1.00** Just for Starters (4372706) **1.30** Our House (9102145) **2.00** Furniture Guys (6276313) **2.30** Room for Improvement (7010619) **3.00** Two's Country (6368348) **3.30** Home Again (7919936) **4.00** Close

DISCOVERY

4.00pm The Diceman (7921771) **4.30** *Driving Passions* (7927955) **5.00** Ancient Warriors (6267665) **5.30** Beyond 2000 (7014435) **6.00** Alaska's Arctic Wildlife (9015665) **7.00** World of Strange Powers (6350329) **7.30** *Disaster* (7928684) **8.00** Walking Among Sharks (6441955) **9.00** Top Marques (1706585) **9.30** Wonders of Weather (9010110) **10.00** Working on the PopMart (6537706) ***11.00** Medical Detectives* (1701110) **11.30** Medical Detectives (6340400) **12.00** Flightline (3874085) **12.30am** Driving Passions (5547559) **1.00** Disaster (6280820) **1.30** *Beyond 2000* (2978172) **2.00** Close

(cable)

TRAVEL

12.00pm Travel Live **1.00** No Truckin' Holiday **1.30** On the Road to the Islands **2.00** Worldwide Guide **2.30** Floyd on Italy **3.00** Ocean World of John Stoneman **3.30** Innocent Abroad **4.00** Reel World **4.30** Aspects of Life **5.00** Going Places **6.00** Railway Adventures Across Europe **6.30** Dominika's Planet **7.00** Travel Live **8.00** Cities of the World **8.30** People and Places of Africa **9.00** Swiss Railway Journeys **10.00** Pathfinders **10.30** Aspects of Life **11.00** Ridge Riders **11.30** Sports Safaris

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Showdown at Leyte Gulf (7639961) **5.00** Modern Marvels (2562042) **6.00** Ancient Mysteries (1382954) **7.00** Biography: Sigmund Freud — Analysis of a Mind (2532619) **8.00** Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm Endangered (7400874) **7.30** Outer Bonds (5091752) **8.00** Living with Leopards (3807400) **9.00** Avalanche (9855503) **9.30** Earthquake (4729597) **10.00** Searching for Extraterrestrials (6873329) **10.30** Mystery of the Crop Circle (6882077) **11.00** Ice Walk (4240955) **12.00** Endangered (3465801) **12.30am** Outer Bonds (8408842)

CARLTON FOOD (cable)

12.00pm Food Network Daily **12.30** French Lunch **1.00** Food for Thought **1.30** Ideal Home Cooks **2.00** Mridula's Indian Kitchen **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** The Restaurant Show **3.30** Graham Kerr's Kitchen **4.00** From the Ground Up **4.30** Ross's Foreign Assignment **5.00** Close

LIVING

6.00am Tiny Living **9.00** I Dream of Jeannie **9.30** The Gordon Elliott Show **10.10** Jerry Springer **11.00** The Young and the Restless **11.50** Brookside **12.20pm** Why Me? **1.00** Tempestt **1.50** Ready, Steady, Cook **2.20** Cheap Chic **3.00** Live at Three **4.05** Jerry Springer **5.00** Rolonda **5.50** Lucky Ladders **6.20** Ready, Steady, Cook **7.00** Hearts Afire **7.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **8.00** Adrenalin Junkies **9.00 FILM: Pleasures** **11.00** The Sex Files II **12.00** Close

ZEE TV

***6.30am** Dhoop Chaon* **7.00** Jaagran **7.30** Business **8.00** Business News and Music **8.30** Raahat **9.00** Char Rasta **9.30** Aap Ki Farmaish **10.00** Kachey Dhagey **11.00** Pot Luck **11.30** Mast Mast Hai Zindagi **12.00** Dastaan **12.30pm** Raahat **1.00** FILM **3.30** Moods Melody **4.00** Top 10 **5.00** ZEE Zone **5.30** In a Jiffy **6.00** Hum Paanch **6.30** ZEE and You ***7.00** Panchayat* ***7.30** Cinemagic* **8.00** News **8.30** Andaz **9.00** Bat Ban Jaye **9.30** Hasratein **10.00** Blunt TV **10.30** Man Marzi **11.00** Shotgun Show **11.30** Amaanat

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هكذا من الاصل

RUGBY UNION 42
King prepares for a stand-off against Australia

SPORT

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 13 1997

HOCKEY 43
Making the grade on and off the pitch

Fitness problems add to British No 1's discomfort during defeat by Sampras

Rusedksi's hopes hang by thread

From Julian Muscat
Tennis Correspondent
in Hanover

GREG RUSEDSKI lost control of his own destiny in the ATP Tour world championship here yesterday when Pete Sampras, the world No 1, inflicted a second defeat on the Briton in as many days. Rusedski's slim hopes of progressing beyond the round-robin stage now depend on a series of favourable results, which he must initiate by defeating Carlos Moyà in straight sets this evening.

In that event, Rusedski must hope that Patrick Rafter — who conquered Moyà 6-4, 6-2 last night — inflicts a straight-sets defeat on Sampras tomorrow. Such a carefully choreographed sequence might just allow Rusedski in through the back door on a percentage countback of games won and lost. The whole scenario further depends on Rusedski sufficiently recovering from a damaged hamstring to face Moyà today. His aspirations could hardly be dangling from a finer thread.

Rusedski has enjoyed precious little fortune in this tournament. Drawn in the tougher of two groups, he faced a demanding opening tie against Rafter, the world No 3. He then had to lock horns with Sampras after the latter's humiliation by Moyà and took the backlash full in the face.

Along with the mental baggage of a 0-6 record against Sampras, Rusedski's precarious foothold was further eroded when he awoke with a tight hamstring. The circumstances proved too daunting, even for one with his spirit, and he succumbed to the Sampras onslaught with little meaningful resistance.

It was difficult to interpret the effects of Rusedski's troublesome right thigh. He later said that his movement was restricted, further citing the injury for a double-fault count that was high by his standards. "It's hard to go out against the number one player in the world on any given day," he said. "Trying to play him when you are not 100 per cent fit is not the easiest of tasks."

Rusedski's thoughts were echoed by Tony Pickard, his coach, who suggested that his charge was only 75 per cent fit. Yet Sampras was later surprised to learn of Rusedski's ailment. "I couldn't tell," he said. "It seemed like he was moving fine, still hitting his second serve real big. I couldn't sense any hobbling out there."

Whatever its extent, Rusedski's injury is hardly encouraging for his match with Moyà. His request to have the contest held over until tomorrow was overruled.

Sampras makes an awesome sight at his best and he was not far short of that here. Alone among men, he is unperturbed by Rusedski's presence across the net. That inner belief was discernible from the start as he battered Rusedski's confidence with a string of spiteful returns. An unconverted opportunity in Rusedski's opening service game only delayed the breakthrough, which Sampras duly secured in game five.

The contest was just 15 minutes old when Rusedski became increasingly frustrated as Sampras outmanoeuvred him with groundstrokes of the highest class. This was certainly not the Sampras that was on display against Moyà, a defeat he described yesterday as a "wake-up call". This time, his returns fizzed like firecrackers about Rusedski's ankles and his backhand penetrated the Briton's net defences with near surgical precision.

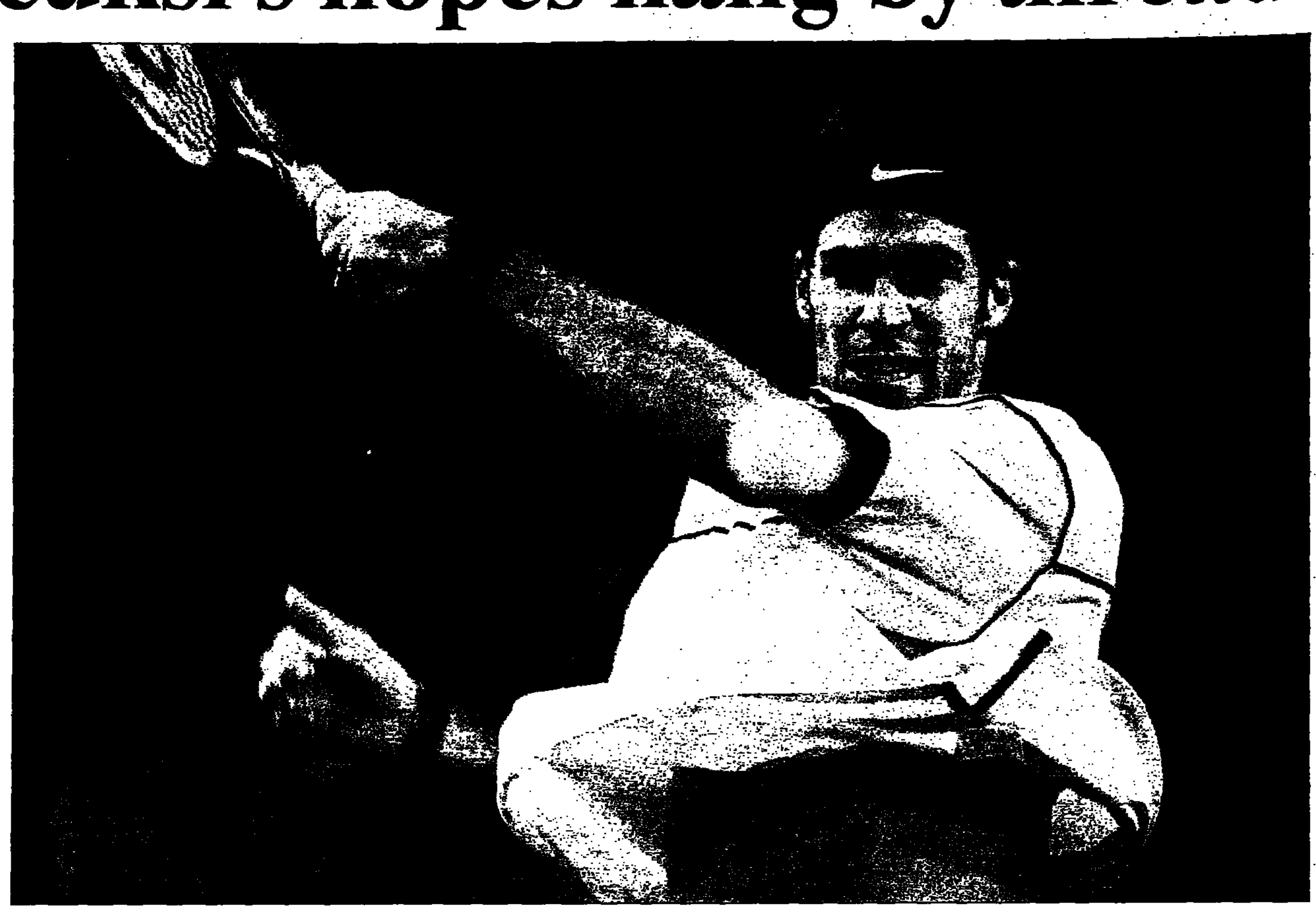
Rusedski held on grimly for much of the second set, but it became increasingly apparent that his service could not sustain him. When Sampras duly earned the chance to close out the contest, the match ended like so many of the previous points: with Rusedski dumping a backhand pass into the middle of the net.

However, his presence here, together with Tim Henman's prominence in the world rankings, encourages the belief that London offers a realistic alternative venue for this championship when the Hanover contract expires in 2000. Preliminary discussions toards that aim have already taken place.

While the red round-robin group, featuring Rusedski, is well advanced, the white group has yet to unfold in any meaningful way. Michael Chang drew first blood on Tuesday evening when defeating Sergi Brugera in straight sets, and Yevgeni Kafelnikov joined him yesterday when he dished out similar treatment to Jonas Bjorkman. The Russian prevailed 6-3, 7-6 in a match that combined probing rallies with daring play at the net.

This was a joust between two players in peak form, Kafelnikov having qualified by winning in Moscow last week and Bjorkman arrived on the back of his victory in the Stockholm Open on Sunday. Kafelnikov's superior all-court game made the difference. Injured in January, and out of sorts for much of the season, Kafelnikov has timed his rehabilitation to perfection. He is starting to look like the player widely hailed last year as the natural successor to Sampras.

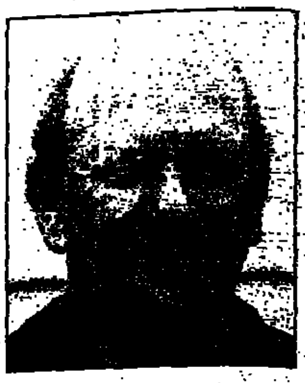
Relaxed Henman, page 43



Rusedski hits a forehand with an assurance that was often missing from his game during his emphatic defeat at the hands of Sampras in Hanover yesterday

RESULTS

Red group
P Sampras (US) bt G Rusedski (GB) 6-4, 7-5
P Rafter (Aus) bt C Moyà (Sp) 6-4, 6-2
White group
M Chang (US) bt S Bruguera (Sp) 7-6, 6-2
Y Kafelnikov (Russ) bt J Bjorkman (Swe) 6-3, 7-6
TODAY (from 1pm GMT): Chang v Kafelnikov; Bjorkman v Bruguera; (from 6.30pm GMT) Moyà v Rusedski.



Journalist with unique style of writing

By John Goodbody

ALEX FERGUSON, the Manchester United manager, last night led the tributes to Peter Ball, the northern football correspondent of *The Times*, who died on Tuesday night in Manchester at the age of 54. Ball had been ill with leukaemia for six months.

Apart from being a respected analyst of football, Ball was a noted author and compiler of many books, including *Only a Game?*, which followed a season with Millwall through the eyes of Eamonn Dunphy, the Ireland international. This was critically acclaimed in 1978 and set new standards for writing about football.

Ferguson, with whom Ball wrote a book on the 1994-95 season, said yesterday: "I felt comfortable with Peter. You never had to look over your back or shoulder. You felt safe that he would write something in the right way. You could rely on him to tell the truth.

"There was also a minimum of fuss about the man. He was so well respected. It is not how you die that matters; it is how you live."

Ferguson added: "In interviewing me, he would listen carefully, hardly saying a word. He wasn't always interrupting. But after he listened, he would make his point."

Peter Reid, the Sunderland manager and former England international, with whom Ball collaborated on a book in 1986, entitled *Everton Winter, Mexican Summer*, said yesterday: "It was only a success because of Peter's unique style of writing."

Ball also reported extensively on cricket for *The Times* and wrote *Fox on the Run*, with Graeme Fowler, the Lancashire and England batsman.

Obituaries, page 23

Windass strikes six after reluctant exit, stage left

By Russell Kempson

DEAN WINDASS, the Aberdeen forward, has often proved the source of much mirth among opposing teams' supporters. Nothing to do with his ability, or lack of it, more a case of possessing a surname of two syllables that, once separated, appear inextricably linked.

A pungent odour already hung over Pittodrie yesterday, only two days after the dismissal of Roy Aitken, the Aberdeen manager. The whiff worsened when it was revealed that Windass, 28, must serve a six-match suspension and will not play again until after Christmas.

The punishment, handed down by the Scottish Football Association (SFA), followed the former Hull City striker's sending-off in the 5-0 defeat against Dundee United in the Bell's Scottish League premier division on Sunday. Before reaching the sanctuary of the dressing-room, he had managed to accumulate 22 disciplinary points.

It was only the first half, for goodness' sake, but he first collected a yellow card and then received red for a second cautionable offence. Stuart Dougal, the referee, also reported two separate outbursts of foul and abusive language as Windass reluctantly departed.

That he ripped up a corner flag and flung it to the ground on his way to the players' tunnel, and that he had been sent off four times previously since his move from Humberside two years ago, hardly helped his cause. "If the player is a regular offender, our disciplinary system can work quite effectively," an SFA spokesman said, with barely disguised relish.

Windass: dismissed

Windass, who has also been fined two weeks' wages for his sins, has much to contemplate during his enforced lay-off, which ends on December 27. "It is imperative that players learn not to lose their discipline," Keith Burkinshaw, the Aberdeen caretaker manager, said. "Dean has found this out to his cost."

At least he does not qualify for a record-breaking entry in Scotland's hall of shame. Martin Neil, the Berwick Rangers midfield player, racked up 23 points in a fixture against Hamilton Academical last season and was subsequently banned for 11 matches.

His crime? One booking, dismissal for violent conduct in the 89th minute and further reprimands for abusive language at the end of the match. "His previous record was quite poor," the SFA spokesman said. "It only added to his troubles."

It might be an ill wind that blows nobody any good, but not in this instance. "Dean's absence at least gives other members of the squad a chance to claim a place in the team," Burkinshaw said, drawing some consolation from the episode.

Neville out of action for England

GARY NEVILLE yesterday pulled out of the England squad to play Cameroon on Saturday with a hamstring injury that he picked up playing for Manchester United in the 3-2 defeat at Arsenal on Sunday.

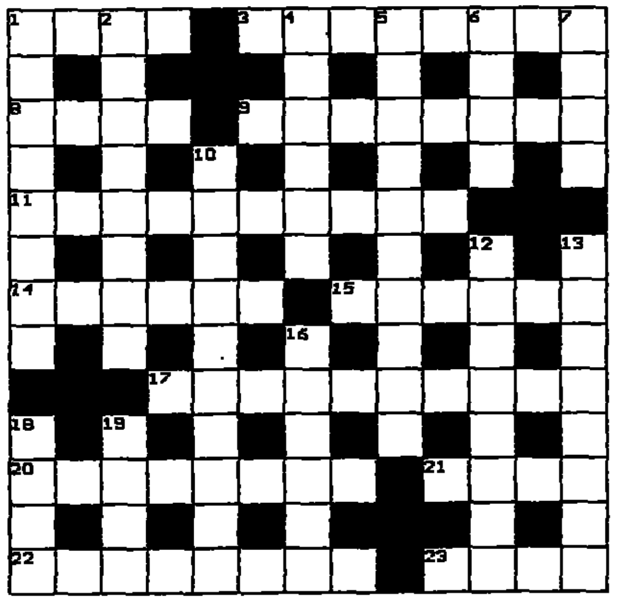
It meant that Neville, 22, sat out training at Bisham Abbey on Monday and the hopes of Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, that Neville would recover were dashed yesterday. Neville headed back to Manchester last night for treatment, alongside Teddy Sheringham, his United team-mate.

Neville joins Sheringham, who has a knee injury, Gary Pallister, another Manchester United colleague, and Tony Adams, the Arsenal defender, in dropping out of the original 25-man squad. A scan on Adams's injured ankle yesterday revealed, however, that he will not need an operation as feared.

Hoddle, who drafted in Steve Watson, the uncapped Newcastle United defender, on Monday, has decided against calling up any further replacements.

Wright's chance 44
Cascarino's finale 45

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1250

ACROSS
1 Bungle: hand-warmer (4)
3 Nevada gambling town (3,5)
8 Legal document: action (4)
9 Highly productive (8)
11 Utterly unconcealed (2,4,4)
14 Conan Doyle's detective (6)
15 Bovine beasts (6)
17 Insubordinate (10)
20 Authoritatively confirmed (8)
21 Leaning Tower city (4)
22 Rules of conduct; sort of play (8)
23 Embankment: ditch (4)

DOWN
1 Twelve: sort of oil, of sun (8)
2 Descent under gravity (4,4)
4 Reach destination (6)
5 Open to damage (10)
6 Free offer (4)
7 Big bag: plunder (4)
10 Censor's weapon (4,6)
12 Savagely wicked 8 (8)
13 Convince (8)
16 Go away (6)
18 Froth (4)
19 At a distance (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1249

ACROSS: 1 Cossack 5 Facet 8 Relic 9 Prevail 10 Old wives' tale 12 Archer 14 Switch 17 Light Brigade 21 Irksome 22 Pasta 23 Hutch 24 Terence

DOWN: 1 Corporal 2 Solid 3 Archive 4 Kipper 5 Fleet 6 Chaplet 7 Till 11 Shoelace 13 Cricket 15 Whisper 16 Object 18 Hooch 19 Arson 20 Rich

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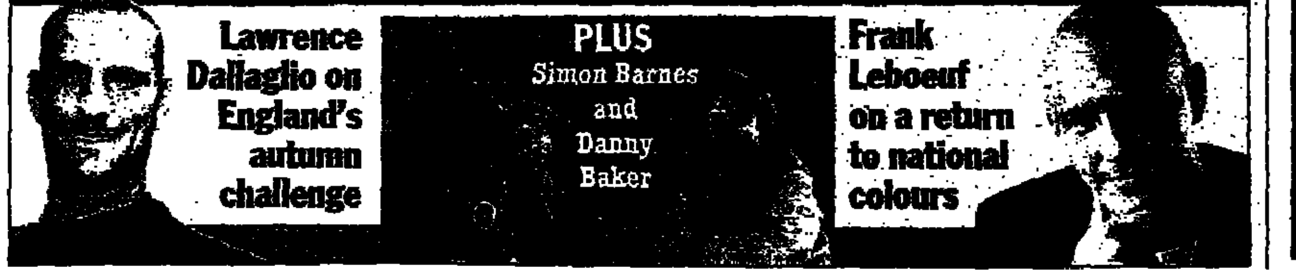
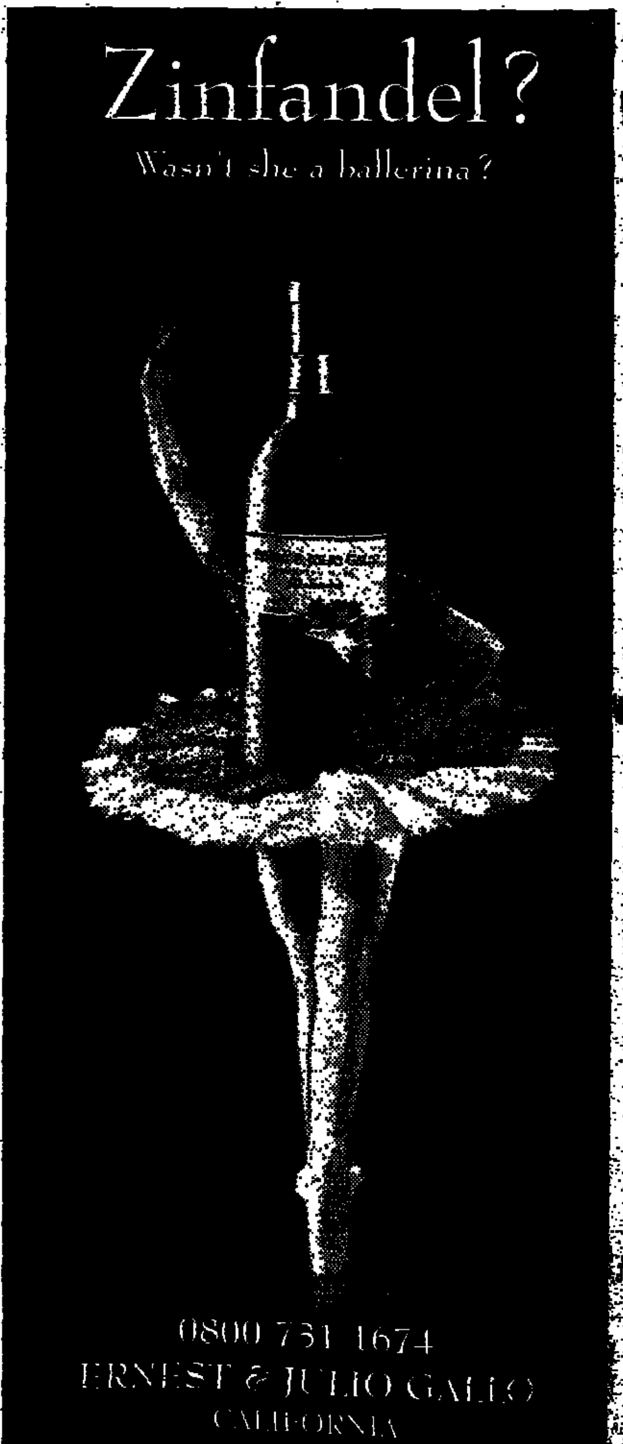


TOP COLUMNISTS ON SATURDAY IN THE TIMES

Lawrence Dallaglio on England's autumn challenge

PLUS
Simon Barnes
and
Danny
Baker

Frank Leboeuf on a return to national colours



Zinfandel?
Wasn't she a ballerina?

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